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THE JAMAICA QUESTION.

At the first debate of the new Parliament numbers of subjects were brought under consideration, and the one which was discussed at the greatest length was that of the cattle plague. It will be difficult, however, to make of this a political or even a party question. It may be said of the new Parliament that, on the opening night, its talk was, for the most part, of oxen; but the oxen will, assuredly, not turn out the Ministry; and the only question on which for the present it seems probable that it will be violently attacked is that of Jamaica. The Conservatives cannot succeed in making the Government responsible for the spread of the rinderpest, but they are trying hard to fix blame upon it for having hastily and under pressure decreed the suspension of General Eyre.

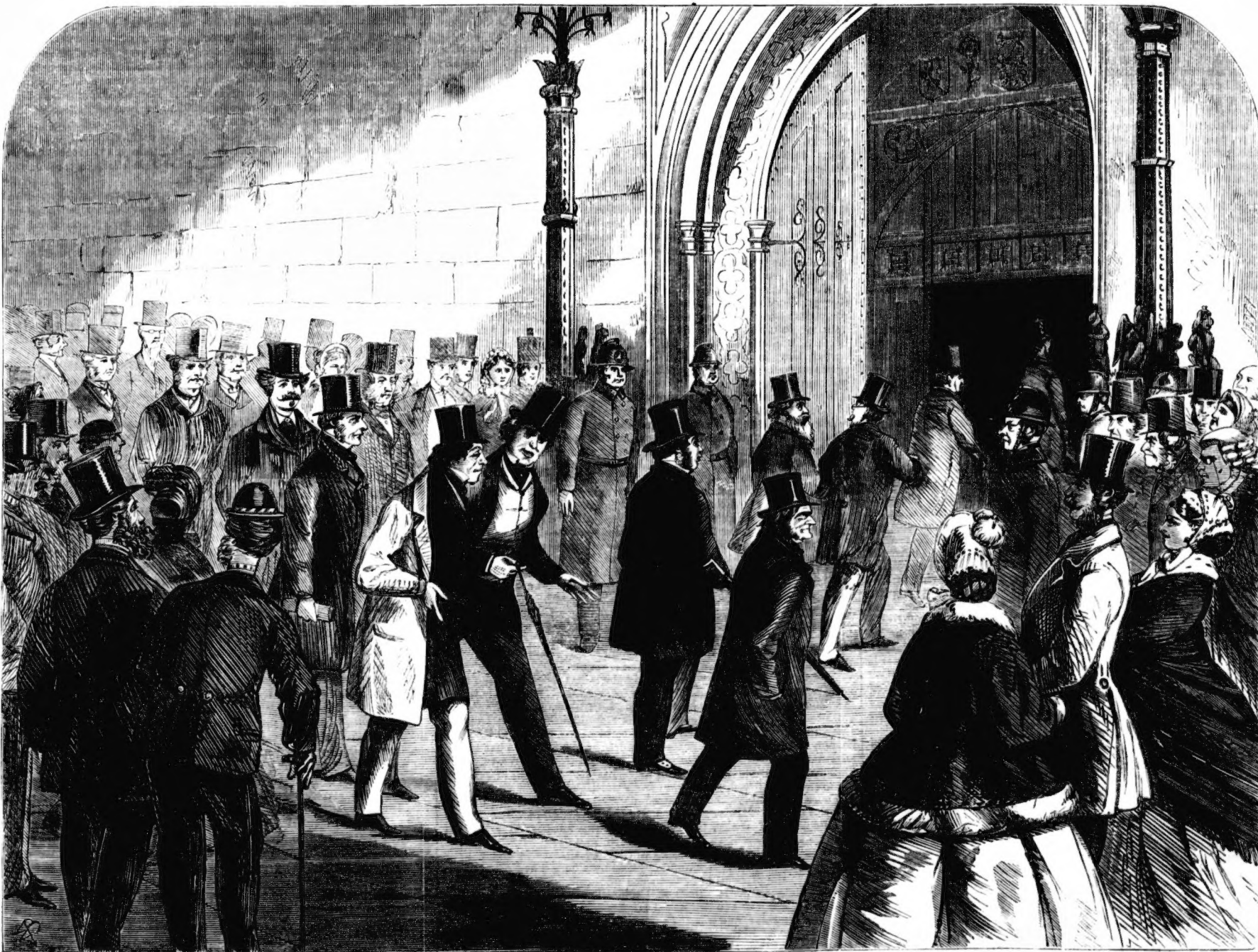
As to this point, it seems to us that, if there was to be an inquiry into Governor Eyre's conduct at all, it was absolutely necessary to suspend him while the inquiry was being made. How could he have sat in judgment on himself, as virtually he would have had to do if, while evidence was being collected against him, he had still remained in authority as chief of the Executive? According to Lord Derby, Governor Eyre has been "deposed and degraded;" but even Lord Derby admits that an inquiry of some kind was necessary. What he particularly complains of is that a "wrong commission" has been

sent out to pick up evidence which might be used against the Governor if he should be placed upon his trial, but which, for the present, has no power to take evidence on oath. Lord Russell, however, explained that Sir Henry Storks was directed to apply to the Jamaica Legislature for power to the Commissioners to hear witnesses on oath; and this power will, as a matter of course, be granted. So much for the form. As to the main question—whether an inquiry ought or ought not to have been instituted—it should never be forgotten that it is not in consequence of any allegations made against him by enemies that Governor Eyre's conduct is now being inquired into. It appeared from his own despatches that he had used and authorised great severity—not to say reckless cruelty—in putting down a rising of no apparent magnitude.

It is just possible that Governor Eyre may have done himself an injustice by not giving a sufficiently full account of the dangerous position in which he and all the white men of Jamaica would have been placed had not the first attempt at insurrection been replied to by a vigorous demonstration in all parts of the island. Captain Bedford-Pym, in his speech the other night at the Anthropological Society, stated that at the time of the outbreak there were but 1500 white troops in all the island, and that the Maroons,

or "wild negroes" as they used at one time to be called, and who are all descended from runaway slaves, were as likely, in the first instance, to take part with the black as with the white population. They ended by fighting on behalf of what proved to be the stronger side; but it is held that only a very prompt display of energy on the part of the Government could have prevented them from espousing the cause of the insurgents. Thus Governor Eyre might, if he had hesitated, have found himself in a position of real peril. As it was, he could not with the small force at his disposal afford to remain on the defensive; for if he had kept his soldiers under arms in the towns and villages, waiting to see whether the negroes would be foolish enough to come and attack them, the insurgents might have been organising themselves in the open country. The raids made by the soldiers may, no doubt, have been necessary to a certain extent; and, perhaps, to have simply marched through the districts in which the rebels, rioters, or whatever they are to be called, were supposed to be collecting would not have been sufficient.

All this has been shown by Governor Eyre's friends in England; but we look in vain to the Governor's own report for a justification of the very severe measures adopted. If Governor Eyre is guiltless in all other respects, he



MEMBERS OF THE COMMONS AT THE PRIVATE DOOR OF THE HOUSE IN WESTMINSTER HALL—SEE PAGE 83.

deserves to be punished for not writing better despatches. This is a fault with which only too many of our governors and diplomatic representatives abroad may be charged. They know perfectly well what is taking place around them, and seem to imagine that the Colonial or Foreign Office must somehow or other be equally well informed. So a simple rustic when talking about his village to an utter stranger, fancies the stranger must know, as a matter of course, the situation of the church, tavern, and school, together with all the latest items of local gossip. It is true that Governor Eyre's reports are written for the Colonial Secretary, not for the general public; but it is evident that even Mr. Cardwell could make nothing of them.

It is, to some extent, in favour of Governor Eyre that he should have had the naïveté in his despatches to supply such telling evidence against himself. It is a well-known minor argument in favour of the veracity of the Scriptures that the inspired writers make statements here and there which it would have been to their advantage had they aimed deliberately at consistency and a character for infallibility to have suppressed. Although Mr. Gordon has been freely compared to St. Stephen, we do not mean to hint for a moment that Governor Eyre bears any sort of resemblance either to a prophet or to an apostle. But, unless the defenders of his sharp system of repression be entirely wrong, he has shown marvellous simplicity in omitting to place his own conduct in a favourable light, when (as his defenders maintain) he might easily have done so. It is in spite, not in consequence, of Mr. Eyre's despatches that so many persons have expressed their belief that extreme measures would not have been taken unless there had been good reasons for taking them. These reasons will, perhaps, be made out in a satisfactory manner to the members of the Commission; but it was quite necessary to send the Commission out, and equally necessary, while it was pursuing its labours, to relieve the Governor of his functions.

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE EVENT.

THE opening of Parliament by the Queen in person is always an event of deep interest to the British people. The affection and respect in which her Majesty is held by all classes of her subjects adds a tender grace to the ceremonial than ever adorned it in those periods of English history when the Monarch was of the sterner sex, and neither did nor could appeal to such sympathy as it is the rare privilege and happy fortune of Queen Victoria to command. The last time, now five years ago, that her Majesty appeared in the House of Lords in all the paraphernalia of her regal office, and summoned her faithful Commons to the bar of the Upper House to hear the annual exposition of the state of the national affairs, it was not to open with the customary formalities a new and recently elected Parliament, but to inaugurate the Session of one that had already been thrice honoured by her presence. On that occasion the support of one whose life to her was the better part of her own lightened the weight of the ceremonial. The Prince Consort stood by her side, and, as it then seemed to the eyes of the people, in the full maturity and strength of his manhood and of his mild and mellowed wisdom, the visible embodiment of the private happiness of her home and the public felicity of her reign. Since that day a generation of schoolboys and students has grown into manhood, and sent some of its most fortunate and aspiring spirits into the Legislature, to take part in the discussion of public questions, and prepare themselves, perhaps at no distant day, to assume a share in the government of their country. But the sixth Parliament of Victoria saw the Queen's face no more. The saddest bereavement that can befall a woman fell upon the loftiest and most beloved head in the realm, and drove her Majesty into seclusion and almost into solitude; and when it was publicly made known that the Parliament of 1866, the seventh of her Majesty's reign, would be opened by the Queen in person, as had been the rule in the earlier and happier years of her wedded life, a feeling of satisfaction that her Majesty had at last consented to emerge from the gloom of her great sorrow concentrated upon the proceedings of Tuesday a far greater amount of affectionate interest than any of her previous appearances in public had elicited.

It was no wonder that, under such circumstances—rendered still more auspicious by bright skies and balmy air, more like those of May than of February—crowds such as are rarely to be seen in our sombre streets filled the line of procession through which the Queen was to make her way to the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday, and that house-top and balcony, as well as pavement, swarmed with loyal multitudes anxious not alone to see their Sovereign, but to welcome her back to the performance of that dignified part in the great drama of Government which, it seemed to them, she had too long consented to forego under the pressure of a grief with which every one sympathised, but which every one hoped would have been more speedily lessened, if not wholly obliterated.

THE ROUTE FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO WESTMINSTER.

"Her Majesty looks extremely well" was the first comment which passed from tongue to tongue as the Royal carriage moved along from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament. It seemed a relief to the thousands who had congregated to see the Queen's progress, and whose chief desire appeared to be to convince themselves that her Majesty was not in failing health. To speak of the people as thousands, however, is but a poor way of giving an idea of the number of those who crowded themselves into every open space. Those who chose to walk along the line of route would see, even as early as twelve o'clock, the roofs of the Horse Guards covered with spectators, and the many stone balconies about the building filled with people. Behind the Admiralty a gallery had been erected, draped with red and white. Opposite the Horse Guards and down Parliament-street some of the balconies were covered with cloth of various colours. The windows of every house were filled with lovely faces set in bright-coloured bonnets, contrasted here and there with the hirsute features of the masculine friends of the fair spectators. But on the flags and up the steps of the houses, on the rails of their forecourts, wherever standing, sitting, or hanging place could be found, there were people. Palace-yard was densely packed. All round by St. Margaret's Church the people clustered in dense crowds, and the wide area in front of the Lords' entrance to the House was with difficulty kept clear by the police. Carriages arrived in rapid succession, setting down peeresses in state dresses and peers prepared to take their part in the proceedings of the day. Just before one o'clock the band of one of the Guards' regiments came marching down Parliament-street with a company of the Guards, and these took up a position in front of the peers' entrance, the mounted soldiers rendering good service in keeping the ground. Immediately afterwards a company of the household troops, with their band, came from the Birdcage-walk barracks and took up a position close to their mounted fellows. Then the people fell more regularly, under the direction of the police, into the side-ways; and a broad, clear road, with a living wall on each side, was kept from the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace. Within the inclosure of the park stands were erected, and to occupy places in these, which could not advantage those who

took them much, high prices were demanded and paid. The Horse Guards patrolled the clear Mall and stationed themselves in couples along the line. But to the police is due the chief honour of keeping the way; and very well they did their work.

ARRIVAL OF HER MAJESTY.

About twenty minutes past one there came along the carriage of one of the state officials—the Lord Chamberlain, we believe. Then there was a pause for some quarter of an hour, when out from Marlborough House came an advance guard of Royal Horse Guards (Blue), followed closely by three carriages. The first two contained the officers of the household of the Prince and Princess of Wales; the third contained the Prince and Princess themselves, looking very well. The ladies and the gentlemen, too, cheered as the Royal couple came along, and the Princess, fair as the day she landed in England, bowed right and left, her face beaming with smiles. Then followed another wait. At last, about ten minutes to two o'clock, there was heard the cry, "The Queen is coming," and cheering like the scattered roll of musketry was borne upon the wind. First came men of the Horse Guards; then followed yeomen of the household, in hats of fearful shape. Next to them came, two-and-two, footmen of the household in resplendent liveries. Next came those wonderful creatures the Beefeaters—Yeomen of the Guard they call themselves, we believe—with their scarlet-embroidered tunics, and trunk hose, and ribbon-bedecked shoes, and starched ruffies, and flat caps, carrying one back to the times of bluff King Hal or strong-minded Queen Elizabeth, but having, one would think, nothing in common with the times or tastes of Queen Victoria. After these anachronisms came several carriages, each drawn by six horses, for the guiding of which one driver, one outrider, and two or three running footmen were required. The elaborate harness of the animals on these occasions is a thing not to be overlooked, and it was especially attractive on Tuesday to the crowds of people who buzzed their admiration as the procession moved along. In the carriages were the Duchess of Wellington (Mistress of the Robes), several of the high officers of the household, and Princes Arthur and Leopold. After these came a troop of the Horse Guards—their scarlet plumes dancing in the brisk breeze and their helmets and cuirasses flashing in the bright sunlight. Then the Royal carriage came, drawn by eight cream-coloured horses—great, massive, steady-looking fellows, seemingly fully alive to the important part they played in the state ceremonial. The coach was not the hideous gilt gingerbread machine which has usually been brought up on these occasions. It was one of the vehicles used when the Queen goes to St. James's Palace to hold a Drawing-room and on similar state events. In it, looking very well, sat the Queen and Princesses Helena and Louisa. As the carriage drew slowly along and her Majesty was recognised, the cheering was taken up vociferously. The Queen bowed her acknowledgments, and was cheered again. And thus, amidst cheers, she passed through the Horse Guards, down Parliament-street, and reached the peers' entrance, where silver trumpets sounded a welcome, and the cannon in the park hard by thundered out a salute, which, loud as it was, could yet not drown the gratulatory shouts of the gathered people.

SCENE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Meanwhile an interesting scene had been for some time visible within the House of Lords. At noon a long line of carriages extended from Pall-mall to the peers' entrance of the Palace of Westminster, most, if not all, of which were occupied by ladies in full evening costume—the wives, daughters, and sisters of peers, and of members of the Government, and some few who were perhaps not so nearly connected with the Upper Chamber, but who had influence enough to procure the entrée for the envied distributor of such favours. The only peculiarity in the appearance of the House that excited the attention of those familiar with it in former times was the throne, which was covered, and had all its gilded ornaments concealed, by something that at first glance looked like a white sheet thrown loosely over it. A little inquiry elicited the explanation that the article was no ordinary covering—nothing else, in fact, than her Majesty's robe of state, which she usually wore on all great occasions of ceremonial, but which she could not be persuaded to wear on this, because state and herself were in accord no longer. The robe was there, but the heart to put it on was wanting.

The House filled very slowly, both floor and galleries, with fair visitors. They were clad in all the colours of the rainbow, and with many combinations of colours which even the rainbow does not present, and converted for the time being the House of Lords, the most solemn seat of legislative wisdom in the world, into a parterre of human beauty. A few peers, in ordinary walking-costume, escorted their wives or daughters to the seats reserved for them, and then retired to the robing-room, whence they speedily emerged, engirt with the scarlet robes and the white crossbands which indicate their rank in the aristocratic hierarchy.

One of the most notable of the arrivals was a lady who came into the House escorted by the Earl of Lovelace, and who was recognised as Lady Anne Isabella Noel King Noel, the granddaughter of George Gordon, Lord Byron. As she took her seat among the peeresses' daughters there were few who did not regard with a peculiar interest the somewhat pale face, light brown hair, and bright, intelligent look of the daughter of "Ada;" and it was agreed that in these rows of ladies there was scarcely one whose appearance created among the spectators a more favourable impression.

By one o'clock the House was well filled with ladies, and the buzz of conversation was audible on every side. Every now and then a new comer into the seats reserved for the Corps Diplomatique excited a little burst of attention, which as speedily subsided, to be succeeded by a new sensation of curiosity among the ladies. About half-past one, half a dozen of the Judges, preceded by the venerable Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, entered and took their seats opposite the woolsack, introducing by their presence a new element of colour into the motley mosaic which presented itself to the eyes of visitors in the gallery. Scarcely had the Judges seated themselves when a greater than they, in the person of the Lord High Chancellor of England, preceded by the macebearer, entered by the door to the left of the throne and took his seat on the woolsack, with his face towards the House and his back to the throne. His Lordship's appearance was the signal for the formal commencement of the business of the day, the offering up of prayer by the Bishop of Ely. There was a rustling of silks and satins as the peeresses stood up, followed by a deep silence, which allowed every syllable of the prayers to be distinctly heard in all parts of the House. After prayers there was another fluttering of silks in the dovecotes and a renewal of the hum of conversation which had prevailed among the ladies since they had been congregated in numbers sufficient to form themselves into coteries. Another batch of judges, bewigged and berobed, speedily entered, followed, after a short interval, by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who shook hands with several of the peers and took his seat on the front bench of peers to the left of the throne, next to the seat reserved for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The Heir to the Throne was not long after his Royal cousin in making his appearance; and, at a signal from the Usher of the Black Rod, the whole assembly rose en masse—peeresses, peers, bishops, judges, and the foreign Ministers—to receive the new comers. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Prince in the full uniform of a general officer, and the Princess tastefully attired in a dress of white tulle, trimmed with black lace, wearing a tiara of diamonds and a long flowing veil of white gauze, entered side by side. The Princess was escorted to the place of honour on the woolsack, immediately fronting the throne; while the Lord Chancellor sat with his face the other way, *dos à dos* to her Royal Highness, an arrangement which appeared singular, and was the occasion of some remark. The Prince of Wales took his seat alongside the Duke of Cambridge, with whom he was speedily engaged in conversation.

ENTRANCE OF THE QUEEN.

Precisely at two o'clock the whole assembly started up, as though

suddenly awakened by a galvanic battery. There was a pause of awkward expectancy; everybody looked towards the door; then everybody looked at everybody else; and then, following the example of the Earl of Derby, who had a broad grin on his face, everybody tittered and sat down. During the next few minutes a very singular pause ensued; for the assembly, now in immediate expectation of the Queen's arrival, had grown suddenly still, and even the hum of conversation in the ladies' gallery had ceased. At twelve minutes past two the door on the right of the House was thrown open; and we had just a glimpse of the green-carpeted vestibule, with two gigantic Guardsmen standing by. Then the procession slowly entered. Preceded by the Gentlemen-at-Arms, the chief officers of the household, and the bearers of the state sword and crown, her Majesty, accompanied by Princesses Helena and Louisa, Prince Arthur, and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, walked round to the front of the throne. Ascending the dais, she was followed by the Princesses, who, as soon as her Majesty had seated herself, partially drew round her the robes of state which had been hanging loosely on the throne. Her Majesty wore a velvet dress of so deep a purple that it almost seemed black, bordered with ermine, a mantle of the like material, a white lace veil falling from her widow's cap, and a heavy diamond necklace. The two Princesses, dressed in white, stood with Prince Christian on the left of the throne, while on her Majesty's right were two ladies in waiting dressed in black the Prince of Wales, the Lord Chancellor, &c.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The Lord Chancellor having notified the Queen's desire that the company should resume their seats, a message was sent by the Usher of the Black Rod desiring the attendance of the Speaker and the House of Commons at the bar of the Lords. During the interval that elapsed between the summons of the Commons and the reply, the Queen sat silent and motionless, with her eyes fixed upon the ground. She seemed to take no heed of the brilliant assemblage around her, but to be wholly absorbed in melancholy meditation. Even when the Commons rushed helter-skelter, like a mob of schoolboys, to the bar, with pushings and strivings unseemly to witness among gentlemen, but which seem to be considered an essential part of the day's performances, her Majesty took no notice of the interruption, and never once lifted her gaze from the ground. When silence had been restored—when the real Parliament of the British people, the governing power that holds the purse, and with the purse the sword—the rough and noisy Commons—never rough and noisy except on this occasion, when bad arrangements compel them, in spite of their better nature, to display bad manners—had adjusted themselves as well as they could to the scanty accommodation afforded them, the Lord Chancellor, standing to the right on the second step from the throne, announced that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to command him to read the Royal Speech, which he should proceed to do in her Majesty's own words.

His Lordship then, amid the all but breathless silence of the assemblage, read

THE ROYAL MESSAGE.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with great satisfaction that I have recourse to your assistance and advice.

I have recently declared my consent to a marriage between my daughter Princess Helena and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein Sonderburg Augustenborg. I trust this union may be prosperous and happy.

The death of my beloved uncle the King of the Belgians has affected me with profound grief. I feel great confidence, however, that the wisdom which he evinced during his reign will animate his successor and preserve for Belgium her independence and prosperity.

My relations with foreign Powers are friendly and satisfactory, and I see no cause to fear any disturbance of the general peace.

The meeting of the fleets of France and England in the ports of the respective countries has tended to cement the amity of the two nations, and to prove to the world their friendly concert in the promotion of peace.

I have observed with satisfaction that the United States, after terminating successfully the severe struggle in which they were so long engaged, are wisely repairing the ravages of civil war. The abolition of slavery is an event calling forth the cordial sympathies and congratulations of this country, which has always been foremost in showing its abhorrence of an institution repugnant to every feeling of justice and humanity.

I have, at the same time, the satisfaction to inform you that the exertions and perseverance of my naval squadron have reduced the slave trade on the West Coast of Africa within very narrow limits.

A correspondence has taken place between my Government and that of the United States with respect to injuries inflicted on American commerce by cruisers under the Confederate flag. Copies of this correspondence will be laid before you.

The renewal of diplomatic relations with Brazil has given me much satisfaction, and I acknowledge with pleasure that the good offices of my ally, the King of Portugal, have contributed essentially to this happy result.

I have to regret the interruption of peace between Spain and Chili. The good offices of my Government, in conjunction with those of the Emperor of the French, have been accepted by Spain, and it is my earnest hope that the causes of disagreement may be removed in a manner honourable and satisfactory to both countries.

The negotiations which have been long pending in Japan, and which have been conducted with great ability by my Minister in that country, in conjunction with the representatives of my allies in Japan, have been brought to a conclusion which merits my entire approbation. The existing treaties have been ratified by the Mikado; it has been stipulated that the tariff shall be revised in a manner favourable to commerce, and that the indemnity due under the terms of the convention of October, 1864, shall be punctually discharged.

I have concluded a treaty of commerce with the Emperor of Austria, which I trust will open to that empire the blessings of extended commerce, and be productive of important benefits to both countries.

The deplorable events which have occurred in the island of Jamaica have induced me to provide at once for an impartial inquiry, and for the due maintenance of authority during that inquiry, by appointing a distinguished military officer as Governor and commander of the forces. I have given him the assistance of two able and learned commissioners, who will aid him in examining into the origin, nature, and circumstances of the recent outbreak and the measures adopted in the course of its suppression. The Legislature of Jamaica has proposed that the present political Constitution of the island should be replaced by a new form of government. A bill upon this subject will be submitted to your consideration.

Papers on these occurrences will be laid before you.

Papers on the present state of New Zealand will be laid before you.

I have given directions for the return to this country of the greater portion of my regular forces employed in that colony.

I watch with interest the proceedings which are still in progress in British North America with a view to a closer union among the provinces, and I continue to attach great importance to that object.

I have observed with great concern the extensive prevalence, during the last few months, of a virulent distemper among cattle in Great Britain, and it is with deep regret, and with sincere sympathy for the sufferers, that I have learnt the severe losses which it has caused in many counties and districts. It is satisfactory to know that Ireland and a considerable part of Scotland are as yet free from this calamity, and I trust that by the precautions suggested by experience, and by the Divine blessing on the means which are now being employed, its further extension may now be arrested.

The orders which have been made by the Lords of my Privy Council, by virtue of the powers vested in them by law, with a view to prevent the spreading of the disease, will be laid before you, and your attention will be called to the expediency of an amendment of the law relating to a subject so deeply affecting the interests of my people.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I have directed that the Estimates of the ensuing year shall be laid before

you. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy, and are at the same time consistent with the maintenance of efficiency in the public service.

The condition of trade is satisfactory.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

A conspiracy, adverse alike to authority, property, and religion, and disapproved and condemned alike by all who are interested in their maintenance, without distinction of creed or class, has, unhappily, appeared in Ireland. The Constitutional power of the ordinary tribunals has been exerted for its repression, and the authority of the law has been firmly and impartially vindicated.

A bill will be submitted to you, founded on the report of the Royal Commission, on the subject of capital punishment, which I have directed to be laid before you.

Bills will be laid before you for amending and consolidating the laws relating to bankruptcy, and for other improvements in the law.

Measures will also be submitted to you for extending the system of public audit to branches of receipts and expenditure which it has not hitherto reached, and for amending the provisions of the law with respect to certain classes of legal pensions.

Your attention will be called to the subject of the oaths taken by members of Parliament, with a view to avoid unnecessary declarations, and to remove invidious distinctions between members of different religious communities in matters of legislation.

I have directed that information should be procured in reference to the rights of voting in the election of members to serve in Parliament for counties, cities, and boroughs.

When that information is complete, the attention of Parliament will be called to the result thus obtained, with a view to such improvements in the laws which regulate the rights of voting in the election of members of the House of Commons as may tend to strengthen our free institutions, and conduce to the public welfare.

In these, and in all other deliberations, I fervently pray that the blessing of Almighty God may guide your counsels to the promotion of the happiness of my people.

The reading concluded, the Lord Chancellor bowed his obeisance to the Queen, who slightly, but courteously, returned the salute. Then rising from the throne, the whole of the brilliant assemblage rising from their seats at the same time, her Majesty stepped slowly down, kissed the Princess of Wales, who sat almost at her feet, shook hands with Prince Christian, and, handed out by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, whom she also kissed, followed by the Princess of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, retired by the door at which she had entered, with the usual flourish and following, in which heralds and Garter King of Arms delight, and which they only are learned enough in their art to record.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The draught of the address of the French Senate, in reply to the speech from the throne, was read in the Chamber on Tuesday. It is in general but a reflex of the speech, and the only remarkable passage is that relating to Mexico, in which the senators warn the United States Government that it is not haughty and threatening words that will lead to the withdrawal of the French troops. There is a report in Paris that the United States Minister has called on M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and assured him that the Federal Government would be sure to disavow the outrage committed at Bagdad.

SPAIN.

Senor Mayano has moved in the Chamber of Deputies an amendment to the address replying to the speech from the throne. This amendment is as follows:—

Our financial difficulties, increasing from day to day, will cause the ruin of agriculture and manufactures. It is necessary to balance expenditure with revenue; but as it is impossible to raise the taxes, already too heavy, we must make reductions to the amount of 300 million reals. It is only by this means that we shall re-establish our credit and avert the dangers which threaten us.

The Minister of Finance has presented to the Congress a bill assigning to the Bank of Deposits 110,000,000 reals of the proceeds of the sale of the public domains. The Government has also introduced a bill fixing a term for the liquidation of the public debt.

A meeting of senators has been held at the house of Senor Salamanca, at which a memorial was drawn up on the different questions affecting the public credit of Spain.

The Chilean cruisers on the coast of Spain are causing no little uneasiness. The mail packet for Havannah has left Cadiz with a frigate for a convoy, and the Catalan deputies are calling upon the Government to issue letters of marque against the Chileans.

ROME.

On the morning of the 6th inst. the Pope laid the foundation-stone of the new church which is being built by English Roman Catholics in that city. The church is dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury.

AUSTRIA.

The Croatian Diet has declared itself ready to send a deputation to Pesth in order to consult with commissioners from the Hungarian Diet to settle the terms of the union of Croatia with Hungary.

The Government has resolved to abolish the Imperial police authorities in several of the chief towns of the empire, and to place the police administration in the hands of the municipalities. These measures are to be adopted on economical grounds, and with the view of promoting municipal self-government.

An Austrian expedition to Eastern Asia will sail from Trieste at the end of April next, under the command of Rear-Admiral Tegenhoffer, with the object of concluding treaties of navigation and commerce with Siam, China, and Japan.

PRUSSIA.

The antagonism between the Prussian Chamber of Deputies and the Government was strongly demonstrated on Saturday last, when a motion declaring that the annexation of Lauenburg to the Prussian Crown was illegal till it had received the sanction of the Chamber was carried by a majority of 251 against 44 votes. On the same day Herr von Hovenbeck moved the following protest against the late decision of the Supreme Court according to the request of the Public Prosecutor for permission to institute proceedings against Deputies Twisten and Frenzel:—

That, in demanding the prosecution of the deputies, the public prosecutor exceeded his authority, and in acceding to his request the Supreme Court assailed the rights of the Chamber. That the Chamber of Deputies protests against this encroachment, and also against the illegality of prosecuting members on account of speeches delivered in the Chamber.

A debate followed upon this motion, and the Chamber finally decided that the Minister of Justice should be requested to be present at a further discussion of the subject.

The Minister of War, Lieutenant-General von Roon, brought in a bill for the grant of extraordinary supplies on account of the naval estimates.

EGYPT.

The convention between the Viceroy of Egypt and the Suez Canal Company relating to all the hitherto pending questions in connection with the construction of the canal was signed on the 5th inst. The decision of the Emperor Napoleon, as arbitrator in the Suez Canal question, has been strictly adhered to by the Viceroy, and his Highness has been congratulated by the representatives of France and England on the definitive solution of the question. His Highness has ordered the construction of a railway between Ismailia and Cairo.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our intelligence from New York is to the 27th ult., but is not, on the whole, very important.

The Reconstruction Committee had reported a bill to Congress amending the Constitution and basing congressional representation on the entire number of the population, excepting such persons as

are by the State laws denied the suffrage on account of colour. Considerable opposition is manifested in the House to the passage of this bill.

Complaints continued to arrive from the interior of Louisiana of the refusal of the freed men to work. Smallpox was raging among them, and large numbers were leaving for New Orleans and other places.

The Fenian president Roberts and General Sweeny had left New York upon a tour through the States to canvass for vigorous military action. The adherents of the senate had held a meeting at New York, which was violently interrupted by partisans of O'Mahony. The speakers advocated the invasion of Canada and the seizure of Canadian ports, whence privateers might be dispatched.

Sherman, Sheridan, Meade, and Thomas were about to meet in Washington to consult with Grant and the Government authorities relative to the condition of affairs in their respective military departments.

Brownsville despatches to the 15th ult. give additional but confused particulars of the capture of Bagdad. A party of 123 soldiers, mostly coloured troops of the 118th Federal infantry regiment under the command of Colonel Reid, crossed the Rio Grand, at Clarksville, and divided into three detachments. On the morning of the 5th the first detachment entered Bagdad, and captured 400 prisoners and four guns. The second party captured the Imperial guard at the ferry, killing one Imperialist and wounding another. The third party captured Colonel Rice, the commander of Bagdad, at his headquarters. Ten men fired upon the Imperial gun-boat Antonio, killing a sergeant and wounding several men. The Antonio returned the fire, and killed two and wounded one of the attacking party, who then fired two shots from howitzers, one shot passing through the Antonio above the water-line. On the morning of the 6th a French frigate shelled Bagdad, without doing any damage. Shots were afterwards freely exchanged between the Republican howitzers on the beach and the howitzer boat from the frigate. A detachment of 200 men of the 118th coloured infantry was sent over to protect the American citizens in Bagdad. The 46th coloured infantry relieved them on the 7th, with instructions, it is said, to withdraw in case of an attack by the Imperialists. A conflicting despatch says that Bagdad was nearly deserted, its captors keeping up an uninterrupted pillage. The stolen goods taken to Brownsville were seized and restored to their proper owners. Another report states that a small Liberal force was fortifying Bagdad with cotton bales. General Crawford, after disputing with Escoledo concerning the command, left for New Orleans, where he had since been arrested and lodged in Fort Jackson by order of General Sheridan.

MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 13th ult. state that 300 men had been sent, in a French man-of-war, to Bagdad. It was supposed the Imperialists would soon reoccupy the place. The French had re-occupied Chihuahua. Juarez was at El Paso.

PARAGUAY AND BRAZIL.

From the River Plate we learn that the Brazilians and their allies were concentrating a large army to advance into Paraguay, and that the movement will be supported by the Brazilian fleet, which was at Corrientes. The allies, it is said, will not consent to any peace with Paraguay unless on the condition that Lopez be expelled from the country.

INDIA.

According to advices from Bombay to the 13th ult., an embassy from Khokan had arrived at Lahore in order to open better commercial relations between that country and India.

An outbreak had taken place among the Khonds in Southern India, but it was speedily suppressed. The Wagheer rebels at Okamundel had been defeated by a detachment of the 18th Regiment. The native commandant was thanked by the Government.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Cape mail has arrived, bringing news from Table Bay to Dec. 23. Great distress prevailed in the colony, and the measures taken to relieve the sufferers were insufficient. The weather was very hot, and in some districts the sheep were dying by thousands. The customs revenue had fallen short of the amount estimated for the year by £40,000. To add still another evil, the Basuto war was being continued, without much prospect of an early termination.

THE JAMAICA BLUEBOOKS.

OF the two bluebooks already published the first and least important comprises a correspondence between Governor Eyre and the Colonial Office, ranging from January, 1865, up to the period of the Morant Bay massacre (Oct. 11). It also embodies the celebrated letter of Dr. Underhill, besides certain documents of a later date than last October, but not immediately bearing on the rebellion or its suppression. The second instalment of "papers relating to the disturbances in Jamaica" is far more interesting. Here are to be found all the communications received by Mr. Cardwell from Governor Eyre on this subject between Nov. 16 and Dec. 30, together with the replies of the Colonial Secretary. On the former day the first official account of the scenes which had been enacted on Oct. 11 and during the following week reached England from the colony. It was already known through telegraphic despatches, by way of North America, that a negro rising had taken place at Morant Bay, that a great many whites had been killed by the negroes, and that Governor Eyre had sent to Barbadoes and elsewhere for reinforcements. His own despatch, however, brought the earliest authentic and connected narrative of the insurrection itself, as well as the earliest indication that any undue severity had been exercised in quelling it. With the contents of this despatch, upon which his enemies no less than his friends profess to found their case, the majority of our readers must already be familiar. Extracts from Mr. Cardwell's reply, dated Nov. 17 (the day after its receipt) were laid by Governor Eyre before the Jamaica Legislature, published in the colonial journals, and transmitted to this country. We took occasion at the time to point out the unfairness of dealing with that which only purported to be a part, and was likely to be the most complimentary part, of such a despatch, as though it adequately represented the spirit of the whole. Our cautions have been justified by the sequel, for the passages omitted by Governor Eyre turn out, as we had anticipated, to contain—together with an acknowledgment of his own services—abundant evidence that Mr. Cardwell was already awake to the danger of vindictive retribution. "No doubt," he says, "you will have much further intelligence to communicate to me hereafter on the subject of the measures of severity to which you have felt it necessary to have recourse. If you had time, in forwarding those inclosures, to make yourself acquainted with all their contents, it will have been evident to you that they contain many passages which will require to be explained as soon as there shall be sufficient leisure for the writers to explain fully the proceedings to which they relate. . . . I entirely agree with you that measures of severity, when dictated by necessity and justice, are in reality measures of mercy, and do not doubt it will appear that you have arrested the course of punishment as soon as you were able to do so, and have exerted yourself to confine it meanwhile to ascertained offenders and to cases of aggravated guilt. I observe with pleasure the hope you express that if no further outbreak occurs you will, in a short time, have been able to proclaim a general amnesty, except to actual murderers." Now, to do justice to the language of this despatch, we must not only place ourselves in the responsible position of the writer, but must also dismiss from our memories all the light since thrown retrospectively on the transactions in question. Bearing in mind these two conditions, we venture to assert that, so far from betraying any indifference to the possible excesses of martial law, it evinces a very clear apprehension of them, and touches significantly on the very points which subsequent intelligence has shown to be the most vulnerable. It was not open to Mr. Cardwell, as

it was to unofficial critics, to comment on the newspaper reports and private letters which reached us by the same mail; but an unbiased reader of the despatch will at least gather from it that his sense of humanity was not quickened for the first time by Mr. Chamberovzow.

The best proof of the effect which Mr. Cardwell's answer was calculated to produce is the impression which it actually did produce on the mind of Governor Eyre. On the 23rd page of these papers will be found the rejoinder of the latter. Its tone is apologetic throughout; and, while it fails, in our opinion, to meet the points suggested by Mr. Cardwell, it leaves no doubt whatever that its author interpreted as we do the despatch of Nov. 17. That despatch was followed by another, dated Nov. 23, and conveyed to the West Indies by the Constance frigate. In this Mr. Cardwell reverts to the same topic, urging again the duty of "checking at the earliest possible moment those measures of instant severity which only an overwhelming sense of public danger justifies, and of returning to the ordinary course of legal inquiry." He begs to have copies of the proceedings before the various courts-martial, and appends in a memorandum some revolting quotations from the letters of Colonel Hobbs and Captain Hole. In a separate despatch of the same date he draws special attention to Gordon's case, requesting to be furnished with all the documents and evidence relating to it, pointing out the material difference between taking part in or instigating the murderous outbreak and making inflammatory speeches which might indirectly lead to it, calling for an explanation of his removal from Kingston to a district under martial law, and implying grave misgivings as to the legality of his execution. The next mail took out several more despatches from Mr. Cardwell, dated the 1st of December, of which two refer to the publication of Dr. Underhill's original letter, and to the opening by the Governor's orders of another letter from the same gentleman to a correspondent in Jamaica. Others touch on an unfortunate misunderstanding which had arisen between the Governor and General O'Connor, but which only bears remotely on the main issue. One, however, numbered 356 (p. 245), deserves a most attentive perusal, for it contains an exhaustive statement of all the questions which can fall under the consideration of the Commission since appointed. By this time Mr. Cardwell's suspicions had been fully aroused by the testimony gradually accruing; and we doubt whether a more searching set of interrogatories could have been framed by the Anti-Slavery Society itself. The number of blacks slaughtered by the Maroons, in particular, was then supposed, on the authority of a letter from Sir L. M'Cintock, to be much larger than more recent details confirm; and Mr. Cardwell specially asks for a report on this head from Mr. Eyre.

It was not till eight days after this and the accompanying despatches had been posted that Mr. Cardwell met the tumultuous deputation organised by Mr. Chamberovzow. In the mean time Sir Henry Storks had been summoned by telegraph from Malta, and less than two days afterwards he was in London receiving his instructions. To represent the Government, therefore, as having been driven by external pressure alone to have pity on the Jamaica negroes is a palpable absurdity. It needed no sensational advertisements about "eight miles of dead bodies" to convince Mr. Cardwell and Lord Russell that an independent investigation was necessary. They were now in possession of facts which, though infinitely short of the fictions so industriously circulated, were quite enough to make their course clear. The total number of negroes shot or executed had been estimated by Sir L. M'Cintock at not less than 1500. The continuance of martial law for more than three weeks after the Governor considered the insurrection to be crushed, and the transfer, not of Gordon only, but of other prisoners, from localities where martial law had not been proclaimed to those in which they might be tried by a military tribunal—these were circumstances which demanded prompt intervention. Those who think that such intervention ought to have been less deliberate or less judicial, and those who think that no inquiry should have been instituted at all, but executive authority supported at all hazards, will have ample opportunity of appealing to the judgment of the nation. With these papers before us, and some experience of English public opinion, we venture to predict that neither will be able to obtain a favourable verdict from Parliament.—Times.

SURPRISE OF A BAND OF BRIGANDS IN A FARMHOUSE.

THE book just published by Mr. Moens, who was so long held in painful captivity by the brigands in Italy, has raised a large amount of interest and indignation in this country, and it may be hoped will have some effect in causing the Italian Government to take more strenuous measures for trampling out these bands of blood-thirsty vagabonds, whose very existence is a disgrace to civilisation. Our Engraving represents an event of which our readers may already have read some particulars; and although the affair was, as usual, sadly bungled by the military, it has been hailed as indicating a desire to do something definite.

The Lieutenant commanding the station of carabinieri at Pontassieve, a district in the environs of Florence, had for some time been on the tracks of a band of scoundrels, commanded by the Chiefs Martino and Pieri; and it at last came to his knowledge that these brigands meditated an attack upon the model farm of the Chevalier Gondi, situated about three miles from Florence.

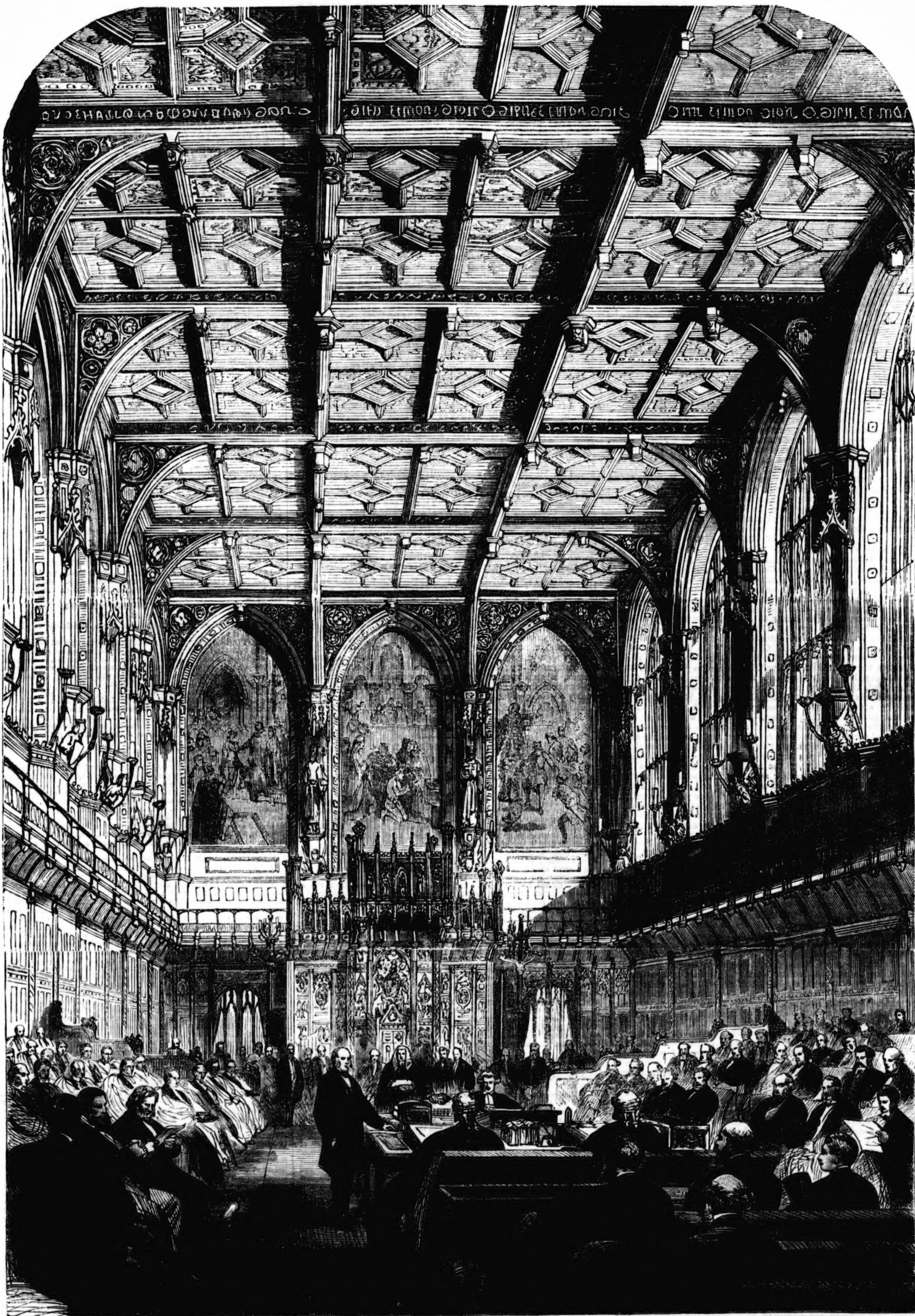
The officer resolved to defeat their plans, and for this purpose went to the farm with eighteen of his men, making his arrangements for capturing the robbers at one haul. The Lieutenant and two of his men, disguised as peasants, sat down at a table, where they conducted themselves like casual labourers, speaking Tuscan, and eating and drinking. Towards eleven o'clock the officer was warned that the band, numbering a dozen men, was approaching, and shortly afterwards the brigands entered by means of false keys. Whether the Lieutenant and his companions played their parts badly, or whether the brigands wanted no parley with the supposed peasants, is not known; but the moment that the band entered they drew their pistols and fired at the three carabinieri at the table, mortally wounding one of them. Of course, on hearing the shots the reserve of the military party rushed in, and a regular hand-to-hand fight ensued, which ended in the death of one brigand and the capture of two others, slightly wounded, the rest making their escape. It is said that they are well known to the authorities, and will, therefore, soon be captured; but judging from recent exploits of other bands, which must be equally well known, the latter is a very doubtful conclusion. The band was armed with pistols and daggers, and false keys which would open all the doors of the farmhouse were discovered on the floor after the fray.

THE RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS.—On the 19th ult. General Clay, the American Minister in Russia, while travelling in the interior, was entertained by the Corporation of Merchants at Moscow. On alighting at the Mercantile Academy, where the dinner took place, General Clay and Mr. Curtin, his Secretary of Legation, were received by the directors of the Academy and some members of the committee of reception. Having been conducted to the banqueting-hall, the guests were again formally received by the committee, and the more intimate among the company presented to them. The latter consisted of 127 Russians, among whom some of the great dignitaries of the city are mentioned as having been present.

LOOKING FOR GUY FAWKS.—A curious ceremony was performed on Tuesday by some seventy persons—peers, commoners, officers of the household, yeomen of the guard, policemen of the A Division, marshals, and heralds—viz., of going, each with a lantern in hand, through the various rooms, corridors, vaults, and the lower Parliamentary regions generally, on the "search for Guy Faux." No such conspirator was discovered in the vaults, but one vulgar wag was heard to say as the last member of the procession disappeared down the trap-door behind Mr. Speaker's chair, that all the Guys had gone down. Not only was there no conspirator concealed in the cellars, but, strange to say, there are no cellars in which he could conceal himself. All the lower regions traversed are broad, spacious halls, formed into galleries by rows of piers carrying the arches which support the basements or floors. Everything below is in perfect order, clean whitened; and the exploration, however interesting in a scientific point of view, or however gratifying to the curious, answered no practical purpose.



CONFLICT WITH A BAND OF BRIGANDS IN A FARMHOUSE NEAR FLORENCE.



THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON TUESDAY NIGHT DURING THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

PARLIAMENTARY SKETCHES.

WE this week publish a series of Engravings illustrative of incidents connected with the opening of Parliament. The Engraving portraying the arrival of the Queen at the peers' entrance to the new Palace at Westminster speaks for itself, and calls for no remark.

The Illustration on our front page represents members of the Lower House making their way to their own chamber by the private or members' entrance in Westminster Hall. Several well-known faces will be recognised among the hon. gentlemen assembled. There, for instance, are Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Roebuck, &c.

A third Engraving shows the process of swearing-in members of the Commons' House, a process which was described in our "Inner Life" article last week. We may only further add that, as the Speaker usually shakes hands with each member after he has taken the oath, the right hon. gentleman must have had pretty hard work during the time the operation of swearing-in his colleagues lasted.

The fourth Engraving depicts the House of Lords on Tuesday night during the debate on the Address. The House on this occasion, though not crowded—it rarely is—was tolerably well filled, the Bishops especially mustering in strong force. The Lord Chancellor, of course, occupies the woolsack, and a noble Lord is in the act of addressing his peers.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 268.

MEETING OF THE HOUSE.

THE House of Commons assembled, in obedience to Royal summons, on Thursday, last week, and at eleven o'clock Mr. Bright entered the chamber. He was the first to answer the summons. Obviously, though, he had not come thus early on Parliamentary business, but to show a young lady—probably his daughter—over the house. This accomplished, he flitted away, and did not reappear till nearly two o'clock. He, however, was the first to make his appearance. The second was Mr. White, the member for Brighton; the third his colleague, Mr. Fawcett—three Radicals. The first Conservative was Lord Robert Montagu, but he came much later. Now what may these facts mean? Philosopher Buckle, who believed that nothing man does proceeds from accident, but that men's movements are ever guided by mysterious operations of the mind—in short, that there is no action causeless—had he been living, would probably have sought for a cause and significance, and perhaps would have divined that the cause of these facts was more zeal, and earnestness, and hope amongst the Radical than there are in the Conservative ranks; and augured that this will be an onward moving, and not a stationary Parliament, like the last. And, perhaps, he would have discovered confirmatory evidence from these other facts—to wit: during the whole of the day's proceedings the genuine old Conservatives were very few in number; the hybrids, or Liberal Conservatives, who sit on the left of the Speaker, below the gangway, were in somewhat greater force; the Whigs, behind the Ministers, were still more numerous; whilst the Radicals, below the gangway, on the Liberal side, could scarcely find room to sit; and, further, the majority of the new members took their seats in this, the Radical department of the house. From these indications we are inclined, without laying claim to prophetic powers, to foretell a stirring Session.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER.

Exactly at two o'clock the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, Colonel Clifford, arrived at the door of the House. He was not dressed in full, but in a black Court suit. He knocked at the door with his rod, was promptly admitted, and, preceded by the principal doorkeeper, who heralded his coming by shouting at the bar "Black Rod," he marched up the house, lowly bowing as he went to the chair, albeit that semi-throne was empty. When he arrived at the table he summoned the House to appear at the bar of the House of Lords, but he did not say "Mr. Speaker," as he usually does, for there was no Speaker, but addressed himself directly to the "Gentlemen of the House of Commons." On the return of the members with orders from the Royal Commissioners to elect a Speaker, the Right Hon. William Monsell rose to propose the Right Hon. John Evelyn Denison as a fit and proper person to fill the chair, and the motion having been seconded by Earl Grosvenor, eldest son of the great Whig Marquis of Westminster, and nobody opposing, Mr. Denison rose, and in a few words—stereotyped by ancient custom, pitched in a humbled key—"submitted himself to the House;" and, this being done, the proposer and seconder came down from their seats, and, taking each a hand of the Speaker elect, led him to the chair—the march thither being accompanied by a loud chorus of voices. And then the Speaker elect, standing on the highest step, delivered his little speech of thanks and promise; and, to do him justice, we must say that he performed his part with much grace and dignity. Indeed, all the actors in this little drama got through their parts successfully. We have not in due order mentioned Mr. Bright's speech, as that did not form part of the prescribed ritual. It was a parenthesis; but, as it was nevertheless important, we shall now devote to it a few words.

THE KEY-NOTE OF THE SESSION.

Mr. Bright may be said to have struck the key-note of the Session, and that key-note was Reform. The grievance which he complained of is not a national grievance, nor, indeed, a heavy one, but still it is a grievance—one of the small troublesome ills which annoy and fret the spirit, if they do not inflict much pain; and we cannot doubt that Mr. Speaker will promptly remove this small grievance. The case is this: Mr. Speaker gives during the Session a certain number of dinners at his official residence, to which every member in his turn is invited; and he also holds a certain number of levees, at which all members may attend, but on this condition in both cases—every guest must clothe himself in uniform if he be a soldier or sailor, or a deputy-lieutenant; and if he be neither, he must deck himself in Court vestments, puce-coloured coat with cut-steeled buttons, white embroidered silk waistcoat, Brussels lace frills and ruffles, puce-coloured shorts to match the coats, white silk stockings, and shoes fastened by large steel buckles; and he must also wear at his side a Court rapier. Mr. Bright wishes to repeal the Act of Uniformity, which prescribes this dress, for sundry reasons—principally, however, for this: it excludes from these dinners some of the best men, who would, but for this obstruction, gladly do homage and pay respect to their Speaker. For example, Mr. Richard Cobden was one of the most eminent men that ever sat in the House of Commons. England has long since so decided, and all the civilised world has ratified the decision. But, though he was received into the palaces of emperors and kings, and senators delighted to do him honour, he would not dine with the Speaker of that senate of which he was one of the brightest ornaments, because he could not bring himself to wear a dress which was repulsive to his feelings and offensive to his taste. And does not everybody see that Cobden in a Court dress would have been an absurdity, as much so as the appearance of Newdegate at these gatherings arrayed in priestly garments, with beads and cross pendant from his neck, and head tonsured; or Mr. Bright in chain armour?

MR. JOHN STUART MILL.

Mr. John Stuart Mill—political economist, logician, and philosopher—is incomparably the most eminent of the new members, and, perhaps, except some two or three, the most distinguished man in the house. Mr. Mill came to the house on the first day, and dropped down, as if by natural gravitation, by the side of Mr. Bright. It is understood, though, that his permanent place will be that which for many years was occupied by Sir James Graham, just behind the honourable member for Birmingham. Of course, he cannot claim this seat; but when a distinguished member chooses a place it is always courteously ceded to him. Mr. Mill has not attracted much special attention. Nor was it likely that he would. To most of the crowd of members he was personally unknown; and even those who had heard of him as a writer know little about his works. Country gentlemen and men of busi-

ness do not as a rule study philosophy, or logic, or even political economy, as we, who have had to listen to their speeches, have long since learned. "That is John Stuart Mill," said we to a Conservative friend. "Oh," was his reply, "that's the man who would give women a vote. Strange notion, that." This is all he knows of Mr. Mill. "Ah, yes—clever man, I am told," said another; "but very crotchety and eccentric." Yes, thought we, "eccentric"—i.e., out of your centre. But let us not be hard upon these gentlemen. How should they know anything about him? He has not addressed them. Great thinkers like Mr. Mill never have a large audience. But think not, reader, that they do not ultimately influence the mass. The works of men like Mr. Mill are like the watersheds of the world, high up in the mountain, down which the waters flow in thousands of tortuous courses till they reach the plain, and refresh millions who know nothing of their source. Who now reads Plato? And yet Emerson tells us that the world would have been all different if Plato had never written. And how many men are there whose minds have been moulded by Carlyle, albeit they never read his books? What Mr. Mill will do in Parliament remains to be seen. He will not though, we may be sure, be a silent member. Of the personal appearance of this extraordinary man we need say nothing, for, thanks to photography, his thoughtful features, copied with wonderful faithfulness, look at us from hundreds of shop-windows.

THE HOUSE ESCORTS ITS SPEAKER.

On Tuesday the House was again summoned to the bar of the Lords; this time to hear "her Majesty's reasons for her calling together this Parliament." It is the custom of the members on these occasions to ballot for places in the procession to the Upper House; and this would be a good custom if arrangements were made to secure to the winners the places allotted to them; but no such arrangements are made. As soon as Mr. Speaker gets under way, the members in the House rush tumultuously after him pell mell, not in ranks, but a mere disorganised mob; and as this mob of gentlemen proceeds onward it is joined by the crowds on each side of the line of march—crowds of both members and strangers—and often it happens that Mr. Speaker, with the Serjeant-at-Arms in the front, and the Macebearer behind, is driven onward, pushed, and hustled in the most unseemly manner. It was so on Tuesday last. The Speaker marched at a rapid pace, to keep ahead of the crowd behind; but before he could get to the bar of the Upper House he was overtaken by the surging stream, involved in it, and at one time there seemed to be a probability that he would be driven bodily, with his Serjeant-at-Arms and his Macebearer, over or through the barrier, and pitched head foremost into the presence of the Queen. Happily, this catastrophe was averted; but his splendid robe was ruthlessly torn, his cocked hat knocked out of his hands and lost, and he was jammed up against the bar with such force that, if this barricade had not been very strong, he and all the mass of members behind him must have been driven through. When the Serjeant-at-Arms arrived in the doorway, he gave the mace, according to custom, to an attendant messenger. This poor fellow found his bauble rather a dangerous incumbrance. Fortunately, however, he was driven against a small side door, which, being on the jar, flew open; and thus, to his great delight, he was safely landed high and dry out of the stream. This is the way her Majesty's faithful Commons escort their Speaker into the Royal presence. The rent in the Speaker's robe can, no doubt, by artistic tailors be mended; but the cocked hat is said to be irrevocably lost—possibly it was trampled to dust, or, what is more likely, purloined, to be locked up as a curiosity.

A BELGRAVIAN AND GLASGOW BODIE.

Of the mover and seconder of the Address we can say but little. Lord Frederick Cavendish, son of the Duke of Devonshire, appeared in a Guardsman's uniform; Mr. Graham, the new member for Glasgow, in the blazing scarlet dress of Deputy Lieutenant. Lord Frederick spoke like a lord: his matter passable, his manner stiff, his pronunciation Belgravian. Mr. Graham's speech was, considering the occasion, perfect. It was well got up, delivered with ease, and even grace, and was very canny. It was framed on the debtor and creditor principle—*debit*, concessions to the objection to the Government policy; *credit*, a clever defence of the said policy; *balance*, a good sum of praise carried over to the credit of the Government, in true mercantile style. Mr. Graham is, however, clearly a good speaker.

Imperial Parliament.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the reassembling of the House at the usual hour, Lord Chelmsford gave notice of his intention to ask certain questions as to the captives in Abyssinia.

THE ADDRESS.

The Marquis of NORMANBY moved, and the Earl of MORLEY seconded, the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne. The noble Lords went over the various paragraphs of the Royal message in the usual way. Their speeches did not contain anything specially worthy of note, though both acquitted themselves in a satisfactory manner, Lord Morley especially, to whom the Earl of Derby subsequently paid a handsome compliment.

The Duke of RUTLAND called attention to the paragraph in the Royal Speech relating to the cattle disease, with regard to which, he said, everyone was agreed that prevention, and not cure, was the only remedy. The Government had done nothing towards that end; but had complicated matters by the issue of vague and contradictory orders—shifting the responsibility that properly should attach to themselves to the shoulders of the people. He hoped the Government would at once stop the movement of cattle in the country, and also all importations of cattle from abroad.

The Duke of RICHMOND having spoken to the like effect, Lord FEVERSHAM strongly condemned the want of energy displayed by the Executive in dealing with the cattle plague, and moved an amendment to the paragraph in the Address relating to the subject.

The Earl of EFFINGHAM and the Earl of WINCHILSEA also condemned the Government.

Earl GRANVILLE, in defending the policy of the Government, said that it was utterly impossible to issue an order to prevent the importation of foreign cattle into the country. What had been wanted was local knowledge and local action, and any attempt to enforce uniformity of action would have been most injudicious. A bill would, however, be forthwith introduced in the Commons to amend the laws relating to contagious and infectious diseases among cattle.

The Marquis of ABERCORN dwelt upon the Fenian conspiracy; but, whilst commending the manner in which the prosecutions had been conducted, blamed the Government for delaying the trials until after the general election.

Earl GREY recalled the attention of the House to the cattle plague, and observed that more stringent measures ought to have been adopted. Ministers ought to have called Parliament together in November. On the question of reform, the noble Earl remarked that, in undertaking to deal with that subject now, Earl Russell was deserting the principle he had avowed in 1832—namely, the principle of finally, and pandering to Mr. Bright and the ultra-Liberal party.

The Duke of ARGYLL suggested that the discussion on the cattle plague might with advantage be postponed until the Government had introduced their promised measure on the subject.

The Earl of DERBY expressed the pleasure he felt at the restoration of peace in the United States, accompanied, however, by an apprehension that the freed negroes, for whose advantage the war had been ostensibly undertaken, were suffering great misery. The noble Earl observed that he had abstained from criticising the conduct of the colonial authorities in the case of Jamaica, but he regretted that, upon imperfect and inadequate information, the press of this country should have taken upon itself to prejudice that question. Governor Eyre was not a person who was likely to lose his head by a sudden panic, and the utmost latitude ought to be allowed him until his explanation had been received. The conduct of the Government, therefore, in suspending him was in the highest degree censurable. On the subject of the cattle disease the noble Earl charged the Government with having, from first to last, been insensible to the magnitude of the danger, and said that even now they appeared to be lagging behind public opinion in the steps necessary to be taken to grapple with the disease. He also animadverted upon the policy of the Government in dealing with the Fenian conspiracy, and in reference to the question of Parliamentary reform twitted them with so bungling it that they had at length brought it into a state of hopeless confusion. It did not appear as if the Government had yet made up their minds as to what sort of measure they meant to introduce; but, whatever it was, he promised that it should not be treated in a factious spirit, but should receive the fairest and fullest consideration; and, provided it was a satisfactory settlement, it should have his support.

Earl RUSSELL vindicated the character of the Government in sending out

a commission to Jamaica, and intimated that he hoped to be able to bring in his promised reform bill in the course of the ensuing month.

Lord FEVERSHAM, at the instance of the Earl of Derby, ultimately withdrew his amendment, and the Address was agreed to *nem. con.*

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons there was a very numerous attendance of members at half-past four o'clock.

Several important notices of motion were given.

THE ADDRESS.

The SPEAKER having read the Queen's Speech, Lord F. C. CAVENDISH, member for the North-West Riding of Yorkshire, moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The motion was seconded by Mr. GRAHAM, junior member for the city of Glasgow, in a speech of considerable ability.

Mr. BANKS STANHOPE, referring to the cattle plague, commented upon the apathy of the Government in not attending to the recommendations of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. He urged them, even at the eleventh hour, to take the precautions which experience suggested, in order to prevent the still further spread of the disease.

Mr. DENT and Lord R. MONTAGU followed to the same effect.

Mr. CARNegie acquitted the Administration of blame, as they were not endowed with the gift of prophecy, and, referring to the question of recompensing those who had suffered heavily, reminded the House that it would be very unjust to include them in any compulsory system of taxation that might be imposed.

Sir M. W. RIDLEY recommended dead-meat markets and dead-meat conveyances as the most effectual means of preventing the disease from spreading.

Mr. HODGKINSON suggested a system of compulsory mutual assurance, which he thought might be done by constituting the magistrates of each county into assurance boards, with power to issue warrants to the overseers of every parish to levy rates on the owners of cattle in order to recoup in part the farmers who had lost their stock.

Mr. T. G. BARING, in defending the Government from the charge of apathy brought by hon. gentlemen on the Opposition benches, contended that they had done all in their power to stay the ravages of the disease, and that, so far from the rinderpest having come from Holland, the fact was that we had ourselves transmitted it to that country by the transhipment of beasts originally coming from that country, but which had caught the disease here during their sojourn in the metropolis. He denied that any uniform rule could be laid down for all parts of the empire, although he admitted that it would be desirable that animals coming from abroad should be slaughtered at the ports at which they arrived. Such a regulation would, however, entail great loss upon individuals, while it would seriously diminish the supply of meat to the population of London.

Mr. LOWE blamed the Government for not appreciating the real nature and extent of the danger, and for not adopting the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners, which might have stopped the disorder in its nascent state.

Mr. Henley, Lord Cranbourne, and Mr. Leslie having addressed the House, Sir G. GREY contended that at no period since the disaster had broken out would the Government have been justified in prohibiting foreign cattle importations, that uniform action was impracticable, and that, had they attempted to place a prohibition on the movement of cattle throughout the country, the agriculturists themselves would have been the first to complain of so arbitrary a step.

At the conclusion of the right hon. Baronet's observations, The O'DONOGHUE moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Election petitions were presented from Cambridge, Bridgewater, Barnstaple, and Nottingham. Several notices of motion were given; the members of the Kitchen Committee were appointed; and Mr. Potter's motion for copies of correspondence relative to the removal of the late Mr. Gordon from the magistracy was agreed to.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

BIDDINGS AT SALES OF ESTATES.

Lord ST. LEONARDS drew the attention of the House to the state of the law relating to biddings at sales by auction of estates. He mentioned that the law was very defective on the matter, and laid on the table a bill to amend it.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ADDRESS.

After some notices of motion had been given, the debate on the Address was resumed by

The O'DONOGHUE, whilst he deplored the ravages of the cattle plague, thought that the question of the state of Ireland was of equal importance, and ought not to be postponed. He moved an amendment on the paragraph of the Speech to which he had referred, to the effect that whilst great causes of dissatisfaction existed in Ireland, it was the duty of her Majesty's Ministers to examine into and remove them.

Mr. BLAKE seconded the amendment.

Mr. LAWSON, the Attorney-General for Ireland, spoke against the amendment, and remarked that the statements made by The O'Donoghue were not likely to increase his popularity with the Fenians. He could not agree that Ireland was deprived of self-government, and he regarded the Union as giving a noble destiny to Ireland in making her the partner of this great empire.

Sir W. BARRON supported the amendment.

After some further remarks,

Mr. MAGUIRE forcibly depicted the hopeless and desperate character of the Fenian movement and the injury which a chronic agitation of this kind must inflict on the industry and best interests of the country. It was, however, the duty of the Government to take the state of things into serious consideration, of which he had often warned them, but only to meet with neglect and something very like derision. Fenianism could not be put down by force, but only by just and impartial legislation.

Lord NAAS asserted that Fenianism did not arise from causes within Ireland; and he protested against the doctrine that legislation was the cause of Fenianism, and those who undertook to prove it incurred a very grave responsibility.

Sir P. O'BRIEN warmly supported the amendment.

The debate was continued by Lord Claude Hamilton, Sir F. Heygate, Colonel Vandeleur, and Mr. Esmond.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the attention of the House had been engaged during the whole of the evening by a subject well worthy of consideration. Ireland had no reason to be ashamed of the ability, the seriousness, and the determination shown to promote her interests by the most legitimate and Constitutional methods. He would explain why the Government could not accede to the amendment. The Government had the Address three objects—to denounce a conspiracy wholly subversive of order and tranquillity, and to solemnly denounce a state of things fraught with the greatest public danger; and he hoped the House would support the Government in this denunciation, inasmuch as, along with this unhappy conspiracy, there had been evoked in Ireland a public opinion, without distinction of creed or class, which had enabled the Government to take measures to suppress it without recourse to extraordinary powers. Lastly, he felt sure that the intention of the Government was not disapproved of when they invited the House to pass a general approval of their measures and the conduct of the Irish Executive. They did not, therefore, willingly part with the paragraph in the Address in favour of the amendment. He objected to the assertion that the evils of Ireland were the result of legislation. The evils of Ireland were inveterate, and if the causes were removed it did not follow that those evils would at once cease. He objected to pledge Parliament to redress evils which in some degree were beyond its power, especially in reference to parties seeking to dismember the empire. The first duty of the Executive was so important that it ought not to be mixed up with any restrictions, however desirable in themselves at the right time and in the proper place; and in addressing the Throne on the subject of Fenianism, her Majesty's Government simply desired to denounce it in the strongest possible terms, although he fully understood the anxiety of Irish members, who had not shrunk from stating the subjects to which the attention of Parliament ought to be called to improve the state of things in Ireland. They were all fair subjects for consideration, on which Parliament ought not to give merely vague, general promises to a people sensible of former wrongs. Some of these questions were under the consideration of the Government, others would be brought under notice by different members, to whom the Government would give the most serious consideration. Their first duty was to condemn the folly and deep guilt of this conspiracy, and the more clear and unequivocal their language was the better would they discharge their duty to their country and to agents and victims of this wicked conspiracy. That done, it was their duty to consider the state of things, and respect that feeling which had been so happily elicited in Ireland in support of law and order. It had arrayed on their side all the intelligence and industry of Ireland, which was in itself the greatest encouragement for them to promote its best interests. They must recollect that they were one united kingdom, and that it was their duty to consider, and identify the united interests of the whole—whether political or social, or connected with the material prosperity of the country and every part of it—by adopting a well-matured system of practical legislation calculated to promote the honour, credit, and welfare of the empire. The O'Donoghue then withdrew his amendment, and proposed to add it to, instead of substituting it for, the paragraph in the Address.

The House divided—

For the amendment 25

Against it 246

Majority for Government .. 321

The Address was then agreed to.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1866.

THE CONVICT QUESTION.

THE two most important social problems of the day are—How to manage our paupers, and, What to do with our criminals. And as they are the most important, so they are also the most difficult of solution. The pauper and the criminal crop up at every turn, to vex the hearts and puzzle the heads of guardians, inspectors, gaol officials, magistrates, and legislators. The poor we have always with us, and the criminal too. They are as irrepressible as the negro has recently become; but their irrepressibility is of older standing and more universal diffusion. It is in vain that we build prisons for the one class and workhouses for the other. Neither prisons nor workhouses are adequate to meet the evil, particularly so far as criminals are concerned. Punishment does not deter them from crime, and kindness fails to reclaim them to virtue. The treadmill and the chaplain have hitherto been alike inefficacious.

We cannot hang all offenders against the law, as some Draconian-minded philosophers have proposed. Indeed, we are becoming averse to hanging any. We cannot ship them off to our colonies or to foreign countries. Our colonies decline to receive criminals from us, and most foreign countries have a superfluity of the article of their own manufacture. We have not hitherto, mainly on considerations of expense, attempted to adopt the practice of keeping all law-breakers in continuous confinement. There are 190 prisons in England, containing somewhere about 24,000 persons, besides bridewells, lock-ups, police stations, &c., constantly tenanted with recruits of gaol inmates. These institutions cost an almost fabulous amount of money. Were we to adopt the principle of perpetual confinement, that cost would be enormously enhanced. Are we prepared to undertake that increased burden?—a question much easier asked than answered. And yet such a course seems the only effectual remedy, so far, at least, as the habitually-criminal portion of the population is concerned. The primary object of society in instituting police, appointing magistrates, building prisons, and devising means of punishment, is, of course, self-protection. We do none of these things, in the first instance, for the sake of the criminal, though we have superadded machinery which may, and perhaps occasionally does, work good for him. The influence of the prison chaplain and of prison discipline, the handicrafts learned and the habits of industry enforced in gaol, may, in some instances, reclaim criminals; but the results hitherto attained are confessedly meagre. Does this failure—for failure it undoubtedly is—arise from faulty principle, from inadequate means, or from defective working of the system? On each and all of these points much diversity of opinion prevails; but the most general impression is that, inasmuch as some good has been effected by prison-teaching, more might be accomplished. In this opinion we are disposed to concur; but, making the fullest allowances for the chances of reformation, a large residue of criminals will remain upon whom no such beneficial influence can be exercised.

What are we to do with the persons composing this residue? Subject them to continuous confinement, or let them loose again from time to time upon society? We repeat that, in dealing with criminals, the primary object of all communities is self-protection; and it becomes a question, what is the cheapest and most effectual means of securing that protection? If confinement be a cheap way of temporarily protecting society from the depredations of the rogue, it must be a cheap way of doing so in perpetuity. A thief at large is a much more expensive being than a thief in durance. The rogue at liberty not only consumes much, while he produces nothing, but he wastes a vast deal more even than he legitimately consumes. Moreover, in the pursuit of his nefarious calling he endangers the lives as well as the property of his fellows. In prison, on the other hand, he can be made to be at least partially self-

supporting. Some men, well versed in the subject, are even of opinion that convict-labour might be made profitable. But, be that as it may, it is clear that the irreclaimable rogue is less costly in prison than out of it; and that is the main point society has to consider. There need be no question as to the personal rights or feelings of the criminal. The man who is habitually at war with his kind has forfeited all right to protection from the laws of society. He is a sort of wild beast, whom, while you care not to kill, you must yet restrain. He need not be treated with unnecessary severity, much less positive cruelty; but beyond this he has no claim.

We are speaking here, of course, of hardened criminals, persons whose repeated offences prove them to be beyond the reach of reformatory influences. With those who can be restored to honest courses a different style of treatment could be followed. Once a criminal need not necessarily mean always a criminal. One false step in life need not always be followed by a second or a third, though in fact it often is. A chance should be given to offenders who wish to reform, in so far, at least, as placing no obstacle in their way goes. Discharged convicts should not be hunted out and denounced simply because they are discharged convicts; while a careful, but unseen, surveillance should be kept over them. They should themselves be made to feel that they are watched, which would deter them from committing fresh offences; but no one else need be aware of the fact. A system of probational employment in industrial institutions might also be applied, on the same principle as our reformatories for juveniles are conducted. The repentant criminal would thus have a chance of following an honest calling, without becoming a permanent burden upon society, or seriously interfering with the rights and interests of honest men. The liberated convict should have no special or exceptional advantages given to him; but neither should he have unnecessary clogs put upon his action.

And this is the principle we should keep especially in view. We must carefully avoid running to extremes. We must not do that for the criminal which we decline to do for the honest man. What we do should be done with a view mainly to the protection of society. All else should be *ex gratia*—not of right; and care should be taken to make this understood. If society once undertakes as a duty the task of protecting and fostering discharged convicts, it cannot refuse like benefits to its unfortunate but unconvicted members. The principle of action in each case is the same, as was pointed out by Paley long ago. Private persons may exercise their benevolence as they please. If unwisely, that is their own affair: they cannot be hindered, though they may be dissuaded. But society, as such, must treat all her children alike. At all events, no special advantages must be provided for the recalcitrant. If a discharged convict has a means of living honestly, and is willing to follow it, let him be left to do so, undisturbed by police or other espionage; but let him not be so treated as will have a tendency to tempt the honest but ignorant and unreasonable poor into crime.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Sir Charles Wood, having resigned the Secretaryship of State for India, is to be succeeded by Lord De Grey, the Marquis of Hartington taking the head of the War Department. Mr. Stansfeld replaces Lord Dufferin as Under-Secretary of State for India, his Lordship becoming Under-Secretary for War. Mr. Monsell succeeds to the vice-presidency of the Board of Trade held, under Lord Palmerston, by Mr. Hutt.

LORD ST. LEONARD'S ARBITRATION BILL.—On Wednesday evening a delegate meeting of the London trades' societies was held at the Bell Inn, Old Bailey, to take into consideration the bill introduced by Lord St. Leonards into Parliament, entitled "An Act for the Establishment of Equitable Courts of Conciliation and Arbitration." Mr. Danter, of the Amalgamated Engineers, occupied the chair. The bill having been read in full, a long discussion took place, during which two French workmen, who attended as a deputation, gave an illustration of the working of similar courts in France, which were not on the whole satisfactory. A great difference of opinion existed among the delegates as to the value of arbitration in the existing state of the relations between masters and workmen. Eventually the following resolution was adopted:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the bill of Lord St. Leonards for establishing courts of conciliation and arbitration is deserving the careful attention of the trades of the United Kingdom, and we hereby approve a deputation waiting upon his Lordship to consult him upon some uncertain points in the proposed bill, and that this meeting stand adjourned to receive the report of such deputation." The deputation having been appointed, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

UNIVERSAL CODE OF MARINE SIGNALS.—The French Minister of Marine has presented to the Emperor the first copy of the French edition of the "Commercial Code of Signals." It will be remembered that an Anglo-French Commission was charged with the preparation of a book of signals to serve as modes of communication between trading vessels of all nations, and upon the propositions of that commission the Governments of the Emperor and of her Britannic Majesty agreed upon the bases of a plan for a universal code. Mr. Larkins, of the Board of Trade, and Lieutenant Sallandrouze de Lamornaix have had the preparation of this important and difficult work, which has just been brought to a close. The French edition of the new code will be ready for delivery to merchant vessels at the same time that the arrangements are complete for the reception of their communications at the semaphore stations. Measures have been also taken to provide for the exchange by electric telegraph and by the post of correspondence between vessels and the shore. In a short time the vessels belonging to the mercantile navies of England and France will possess a common language, and will be able whenever they come within sight of the coasts of France to place themselves in communication with all points to which our telegraphic services extend. Already several Governments have made known their desire to adopt the commercial code of signals as soon as they shall have been published in Paris and London. All nations will be urged to adopt this code, and we may hope that, thanks to the good understanding between France and England, a realisation of the great idea of peace and civilisation—a universal maritime language will be brought about.

NEW LIFE-BOATS FOR RAMSGATE AND THE LIZARD.—On Tuesday some interesting harbour trials took place in the Regent's Canal Dock, Limehouse, with some fine new life-boats which the National Life-boat Institution is now forwarding to Ramsgate, the Lizard, and other stations. The trials were in every way satisfactory. The boats possess the usual valuable and peculiar properties pertaining to the boats of the institution. The Ramsgate new life-boat is one of the largest self-righting life-boats on the coasts of the United Kingdom, being 40 ft. long and 12 ft. wide, and rowing twelve oars, double-banked. Her cost has been generously presented to the National Life-boat Institution by the people of Bradford, through Charles Semon, Esq., ex-Mayor. The Kingsdown life-boat is 33 ft. long and 8 ft. wide, and rows ten oars, double-banked. She is the munificent gift to the institution of William Ferguson, Esq., of the Stock Exchange. Both boats were built by the Messrs. Forrest, of Limehouse. The Ramsgate life-boat will always be kept afloat in the harbour, in readiness to be taken at any moment in tow of the harbour steam-tug Aid to the assistance of shipwrecked crews on the dangerous Goodwin Sands. This little steamer, which, throughout the glorious career of the old boat, shared many a time its hair-breadth escapes from destruction, in snatching nearly 500 shipwrecked sailors from a watery grave on the fatal Goodwin Sands, came up the Thames on Wednesday for the new boat. A commodious and substantial house has been built for the reception of the Kingsdown life-boat, her stores and carriage, from designs furnished by C. H. Cooke, Esq., the hon. architect of the society. This boat and carriage were readily granted a free conveyance to their station by the South-Eastern Railway Company.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE INFANT SON of the Queen of Spain has received 112 names, "comprehending," as the official papers inform us, "all the invocations of the Most Holy Virgin." The first and real name, however, is that of the blessed Francisco de Asis.

CAMBRIDGE has sent the usual challenge to Oxford to row upon the Thames.

A NEW VIOLIN-PLAYER, of whom report speaks in high terms, has made his appearance in Brussels. His name is Leopold Auer.

SIR H. STOKES has appointed Colonel Hunt, Aide-de-Camp to Governor Eyre, to be his private secretary, and the act is said to have given great satisfaction to the white people of Jamaica.

MR. HOLMAN HUNT, it is said, contemplates a journey to Jerusalem and a lengthened stay in the Holy City, with a view to the prosecution of his art. SIR HUGH CAIRNS' HEALTH, it is said, is daily improving, and he purposes returning to England at the end of the present month, to fulfil his Parliamentary and professional duties.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA has recently introduced a new fashion—namely, to have a diamond, representing a dewdrop, fixed to a real flower. A few evenings ago her Majesty had in her hand a bouquet of white camellias, and on each, in the centre, was a large diamond.

THE SOUTH-EASTERN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, in Greenwich Hospital, was closed on Saturday last, after a very successful course.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION for the trial of the Fenians was brought to a close on Friday week.

MISS BRADDON, it is rumoured, will ere long appear as the editor of a new magazine, the title of which has not yet been fixed upon.

SIGNOR BOTTA and SIGNOR BOTTERO, Italian journalists, fought a duel with pistols, at Turin, a few days ago, and in the second fire the former was dangerously wounded.

A DAUGHTER OF MRS. HOWITT is preparing for the press "A Year in Sweden with Fredrika Bremer."

A DEAD-MEAT MARKET is to be established at Salisbury, and slaughter-houses erected outside the city, in consequence of the suspension of the live-stock market.

A MOVEMENT in favour of cheaper and better gas is causing great excitement in Weymouth, Dorchester, and other towns in that neighbourhood.

THE PEOPLE OF ST. PETERSBURG are complaining that they have had no winter yet, only an occasional light fall of snow, which quickly melted into slush, with continual sleet and rain.

THE INQUEST on the bodies of the Frenchman and his mother who committed suicide at Paddington has resulted in a verdict of "Temporary insanity" in the case of both mother and son.

THE CASUAL WARDS in various workhouses throughout England, especially in the southern districts, have been considerably improved since the disclosure of the state of things at Lambeth and elsewhere.

BOTH HOUSES OF CONVOCATION met on Tuesday and proceeded to business. In the Upper House not much was done. In the Lower House notices of motion were given as to the Synod of the Clergy and ritualism, and there was a discussion in reference to the Conscience clause. The proceedings since have possessed little interest.

A NEW ANÆSTHETIC, termed "bichloride of carbon," has been recently described by Dr. (now Sir James) Simpson. The substance was originally discovered by Regnault in 1839, and closely resembles in chemical constitution and physical qualities the well-known anæsthetic-chloroform.

THE ABBE DEQUERRY, Curé of the Madeleine, is to preach the Lent sermons at the Tuilleries. This ecclesiastic, who has several times refused the mitre, is confessor to the Empress, and charged with the religious instruction of the Prince Imperial.

CHEABOURG HARBOUR has suffered seriously from the recent gales, 200 enormous stones placed in front of it as a breakwater having been lifted and thrown into the sea. It is said that fifty guns were also thrown into the sea.

A WRITER in the *Morgenblatt*, of Silesia, has been sentenced to a week's imprisonment for ridiculing the relic known as the Holy Coat of Trèves.

MISS POOLE (or rather Mrs. Smith), who maltreated the Carmarthen editor, and her husband, have been convicted of committing an aggravated assault, and been sentenced to a fine of £3 each.

THE EXECUTION OF CHARLOTTE WINSON is fixed for Monday next. She now appears fully to understand her position, and to have given up all hope of a reprieve.

LORD MONTAGUE died on Wednesday at his seat, Mount Trenchard, Limerick, in his seventy-sixth year.

THE BENCHERS OF THE INNER TEMPLE have elected the Rev. Alfred Ainger, late Scholar of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to be Reader of the Temple Church.

THE DEATH OF LORD PANMURE'S "DOWB" IS ANNOUNCED. The gallant officer died very prematurely.

AN EXPLOSION, the second within eighteen months, took place at the St. Allen powder-mills, near Truro, on Monday afternoon. Two men were dreadfully burnt. The building in which they were working, and in which the explosion, from some cause at present unknown, took place, was completely destroyed.

THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT applied to France some days ago for the extradition of parties who were charged with having been engaged at Datchet in the fabrication of Russian bank-notes. It now appears that the French Government positively refuses to give them up, thus acting already on the abrogation of the treaty. The losers in this matter are the Russian authorities.

SIR CHARLES WOOD, with the concurrence of the Council of India, has been pleased to appoint Mr. William G. Goodlife to be Accountant-General of the India Office, in the room of Mr. George Friend, who retires, after fifty years' service.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MADAGASCAR has paid the indemnity claimed by France.

THE MISSOURI SENATE has passed a bill making habitual intemperance for a year sufficient cause for a divorce. In Chicago fifty divorces were granted to wives in the year 1865 on the ground of the drunkenness of their husbands.

A DEPUTATION FROM THE HUNGARIAN DIET has presented an address of congratulation to the Emperor. His Majesty replied that, though there were difficulties in the way of a settlement of the Hungarian question, they would vanish before a resolute will and mutual confidence.

A DELIBERATE ACT OF SUTTEE was perpetrated recently near Jubbalpore, the subject of it being the wife of a deceased barber. She sat on a pile of wood, with her dead husband across her knees, until suffocated by the smoke and flames.

THE PROJECT OF A GERMAN NORTH POLE EXPEDITION is in a fair way of being carried out, the Prussian Government having placed a ship, the *Medina*, a corvette of 200-horse power, at its disposal, and the sum of 60,000 thalers as a contribution towards the outfitting expenses.

THE RAMPARTS OF ANTWERP are being rapidly levelled, nearly 3000 men being employed on the work, either with the spade or by mining. The fort of Montebello has already nearly disappeared, as only a few vestiges of it remain. The works are carried on with a rapidly truly marvellous; and the population, favoured by the fine weather, collects in vast numbers to witness the scene.

THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE BARQUE JANE LOWDEN, of Padstow, has arrived at Plymouth. The poor fellow was thirty-three days in the main-top before he was rescued, and had lived for twenty-eight days without food. A more remarkable example of endurance was, perhaps, never recorded.

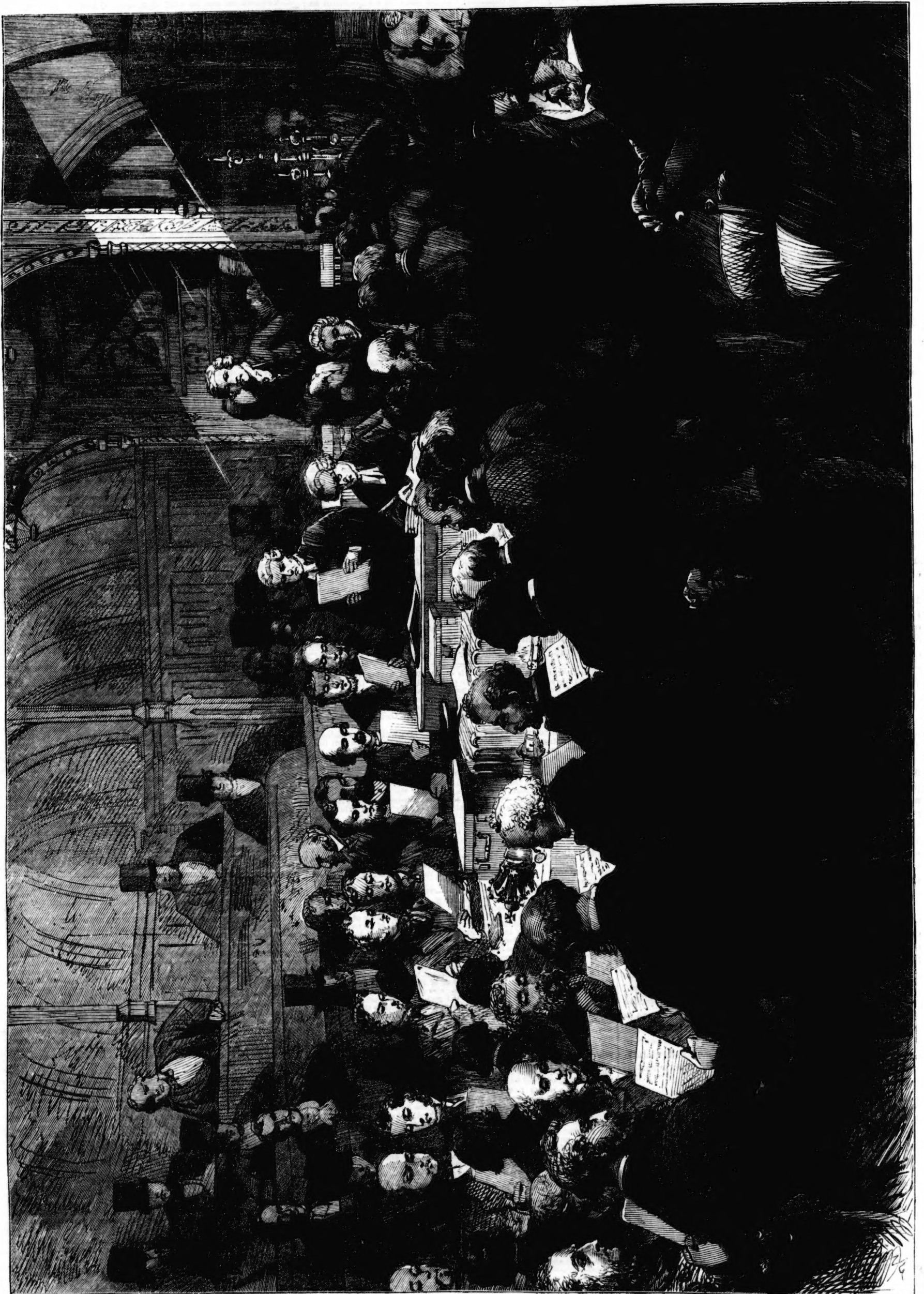
FRESH OUTBREAKS appear to have occurred in Syria. Joseph Karam, who got up a small insurrection early in January, submitted to Daoud Pacha on the 27th of that month. Since, then, however, fresh disturbances have broken out, and the intervention of an armed force is declared to be necessary.

SALAD is of such general use in Paris that there are many families who will not deprive themselves of it, no matter what the cost. Of late years it has been very scarce during the winter months, and the price was exorbitant. The annual cost of the salad consumed in Paris is estimated at £40,000.

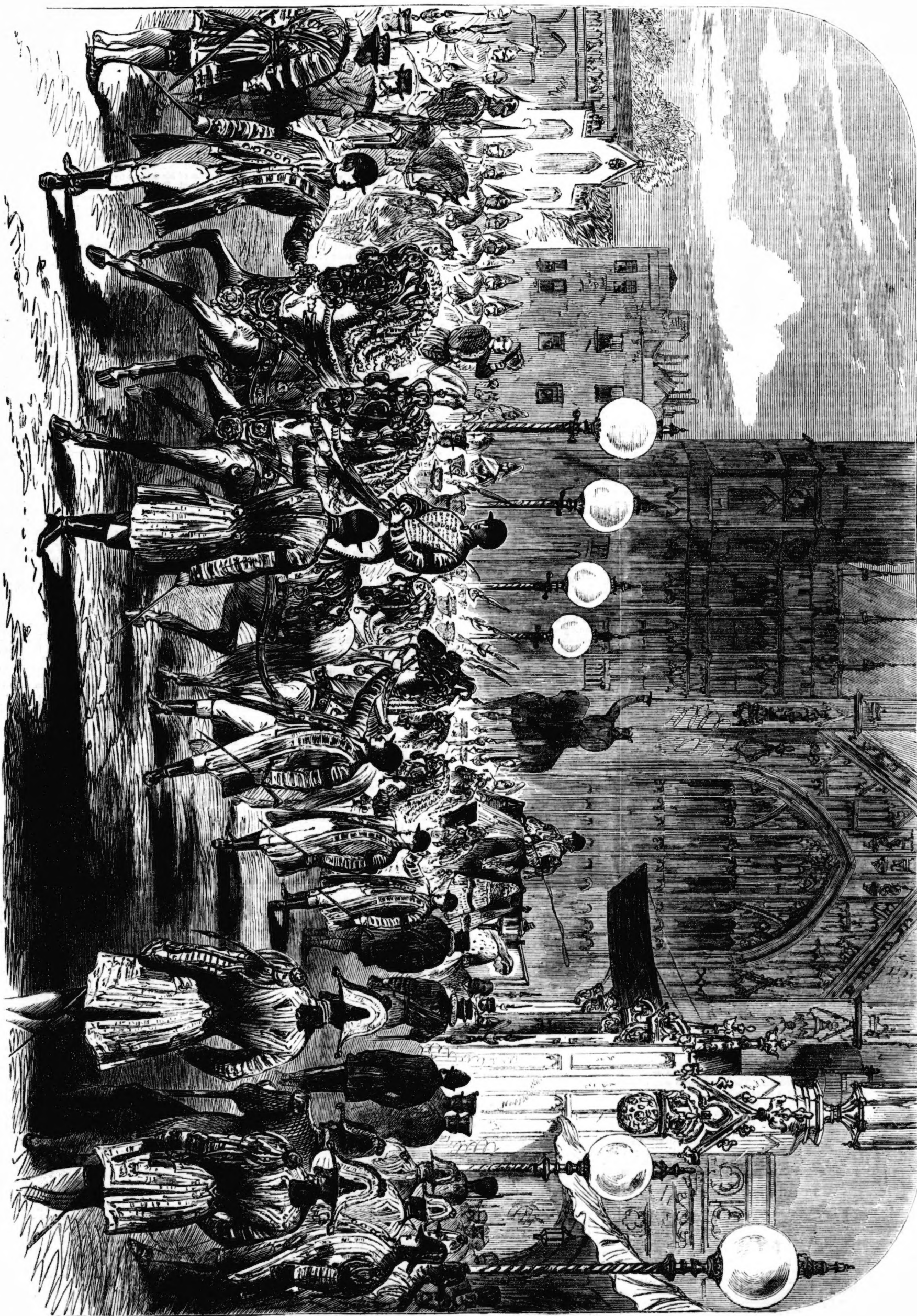
MR. J. BERTRAND PAYNE, M.B., F.R.G.S., Captain commanding the 4th Middlesex (Volunteers) Volunteer Artillery, is engaged in writing the histories of the metropolitan volunteer regiments. This is a subject full of present and prospective interest, and will not fail to be supported, one would think, by the volunteers. The portraits and coats of arms of the commanding officers will tend to make this work a valuable memorial of our civil force.

THE ADMIRALTY BOARD has refused to permit Captain Coles to inspect or advise upon his own plans for the new turret-ship about to be built. Their reasons for this order are that Captain Coles has "attacked in the public press the officers of the department," that he has "made reflections on officers employed under the Board of Admiralty," "instead of cordially co-operating with the Comptroller of the Navy in the endeavour to solve a most difficult problem."

A VERY INTERESTING and valuable addition has just been made to the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons by the purchase, on the part of the council of the college, of a perfect skeleton of the Greenland whale—the *Balaena mysticetus* of Linnaeus, or better known in commerce as the Northern Light whale. The specimen is that of an adult female taken at Holstenborg, in South Greenland, and transmitted thence to Copenhagen. Although the species is threatened with speedy extermination, no skeleton had ever been brought to England.



SWEARING IN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—SEE PAGE 86.



ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN AT THE PEERS' ENTRANCE TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—SEE PAGE 86.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

SIR CHARLES WOOD is no longer Indian Minister. It has long been known that the honourable Baronet had come to feel the burden of office unpleasantly heavy. Sir Charles has never been a popular Minister either in the House or out of it, and mainly for this reason—he could not talk. He might have good wares, but he could not recommend them. He was terribly industrious; no Minister ever worked harder, and no amount of work ever daunted him; and he has a keen, penetrating intellect: in short, on the whole, he is a very able administrator. But what was the use of all this in a Constitutional country if he could not talk? Carlyle lauds to the skies eloquent work, and laughs to scorn eloquent talk, and no doubt the former is infinitely better than the latter; but in England we must have both good wares and the eloquence of a cheap Jack to recommend them.

Sir Charles Wood's successor is Earl De Grey and Ripon. What a curious study is the art of governing a great country! Earl De Grey, &c., when he was Lord Goverich, was not thought to be specially qualified to be at the head of a great department; but soon after he had become the possessor of two earldoms he was made chief of the War Department. This was curious. But what are we to think of the policy of removing him, just as he was becoming acquainted with his business in the War Department, to the India Board? And who, think you, is to be his Under Secretary? Why, Mr. Stansfeld—an infinitely superior man. Is not this inverting the natural order of things—placing the first last and the last first? How are we to account for these things? Well, I suppose my friend Blogg has hit upon the explanation. "Well," said that astute politician, "you know, you would not expect the inheritor of two earldoms to serve under a man who was only the other day a brewer. Besides, can any amount of brain, think you, compete with the power to send two or three members to the House of Commons? You are a mere theorist, my friend—an impracticable Utopian—a man before your age. It will be a hundred years before your ideal will be realised. As matters go now, a Prime Minister has to look, not so much for brains as for votes. If we were to adopt your principle, of course we should invite that Radical fellow John Stuart Mill to take the office of Indian Secretary, for he knows more about India than any ten men living."

The Marquis of Hartington is to be Chief Secretary of State for War. This is a far better appointment than the other, for his Lordship, though he is not a very good talker, has done his work as Under Secretary reasonably well. But would he have been lifted to this high position if he had been a mere commoner? His Lordship is heir-apparent to the dukedom of Devonshire, and he has a tail of three Cavendishes in the House, besides I know not how many members who are returned by the influence of this great ducal house. Nevertheless, let us be thankful; the appointment is, on the whole, as good as we can expect. Besides, are there not symptoms of this system breaking up? Mr. Goschen's appointment, for example. By-the-way, I said some time ago that Mr. Goschen's acceptance of the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster would not vacate his seat. This was a mistake. I was misled by certain unofficial books, which, in the absence of all facilities for obtaining a sight of the Journals of the House, I am obliged to consult. It is really a great disgrace to the Government that the public documents cannot be got at without immense difficulty.

Notwithstanding the authoritative assertion which appeared in the *South Eastern Gazette* that Lord Clarence Paget does not intend to resign the secretaryship of the Admiralty, you may, I think, take it as a thing quite certain that he will resign this post as soon as he can get the command of the Mediterranean Fleet, but Mr. Stansfeld will not have his place. He is qualified, better than any other man in the House, for the office; but there are difficulties in the way of his own raising, and he, as I have said, will, if nothing unforeseen should turn up to prevent, go to the India Board. True, India business is new to him; but Indian affairs are not brought formally before the House till late in the Session, and be sure that Mr. Stansfeld, with his abilities and power of application, will be master of his work before then, and quite ready for his catechisers and critics.

On Tuesday the first number of the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons was issued; and never in my time has there been thus early so formidable an array of notices of motions. They already, including questions, number forty-three; and probably before you go to press they will be doubled. On Wednesday the Jamaica bluebook was issued; and a cursory glance over it shows Mr. Cardwell in a very different light to that in which he appeared before we got this book. The tone of his first despatch was not satisfactory; but that was written before he knew so much of the doings in Jamaica as he afterwards learned. His subsequent despatches show him to us in a very different temper. It is reported that Mr. Eyre is very ill.

It is somewhat remarkable that the death of Mr. Thomas Love Peacock, author of "Headlong Hall," "Crotchet Castle," "Gryll Grange," "Nightmare Abbey," and other works popular in their day, should have been allowed to pass with so little notice. One would have naturally expected to find articles on the life and writings of such a man in the literary papers, and some notice at least in the dailies and weeklies; but, so far as I am aware, only one or two paragraphs have appeared, and that not till about a week after his death. Mr. Peacock was born at Weymouth, in October, 1785, and had consequently attained his eightieth year at the time of his death, which occurred about a fortnight since; but so little has been said of the matter that I am unable at this moment to find the exact date. In 1810, Mr. Peacock published a classical poem, called "The Genius of the Thames," which by 1812 had reached a second edition. In the same year he gave to the world another poem, "The Philosophy of Melancholy"; followed, six years afterwards, by "Rhododaphne." His first novel, "Headlong Hall," appeared in 1816; followed, at intervals of from one to seven years, by "Melincourt," "Nightmare Abbey," "The Misfortunes of Elphin," "Crotchet Castle," and "Gryll Grange." Besides these works, Mr. Peacock was a large contributor to periodical literature, although from 1818 until 1836 he had held a responsible position in the India House, having from 1836 been examiner of Indian correspondence. He made the acquaintance of Shelley in 1812, and eventually became his chief friend and executor, in which last capacity it fell to his lot, as nearly his final literary labour, to publish a defence of the poet's first wife, Helen Westbrook. Mr. Peacock's novels were not, in the rigid sense of the word, novels at all, for they, properly speaking, told no story; but, in his earlier days, were merely the vehicles for the outpouring of keen and searching satire on the social, political, and literary foibles of the time; and, in his more mature years, for the expression of rare scholarship and ripened wit. The consequence was, of course, that he did not write for a large audience, and that much of the point of his books is now, as it often was at the time, "caviare to the vulgar." He was, nevertheless, a keen thinker, and one of that numerous band of ready writers—John Stuart Mill being of the number—of whom the service of the old East India Company could boast. Mr. Peacock retired from his position in Leadenhall-street shortly before the suppression of the Company, and spent the later years of his life among his books. Such a man should not have been allowed to pass away without some fuller notice than the event seems to have received.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

I wonder if the readers of this column often call to mind that it must be impossible to notice every magazine that comes within its scope, and impossible to do justice to everything that appears in the magazines which it is possible to notice. The truth is that a selection has to be made always; and it may sometimes happen that a very good thing is left unnoticed only because there is not room or opportunity for such notices as could alone give meaning to ordinary words of praise. But with regard to the choice of the magazines that are noticed, I proceed upon General Rules, some of which shall be stated for the behoof of the parties concerned.

1. Sometimes I see at a glance that a new magazine arriving for notice is born only to die. It is imitative; it has no character of its

own; it is badly edited; or something of that sort. In such a case, I very often don't interfere. Let the poor thing die, and have the baby's epitaph—

Since I have been so quickly done for,
I marvel what I was begun for.

2. Sometimes I cannot speak favourably of a thing, and yet certain reasons, such as the knowledge that there is misfortune in the case, keep me silent.

3. There is one sort of thing—book, magazine, or article, don't matter—which I always let go to the wall in case of a doubt, and I will briefly describe it. It has a great obvious capacity of pushing its own way and taking care of itself. It never loses a chance of hooking itself on to a Respectability. It has an especial eye, like a tradesman's circular, to the influential classes—it "hopes to deserve the support of the nobility, clergy, and gentry of this neighbourhood"—clergy especially. It touts. It may sometimes be found on the side which has lost, because it may happen to be stranded there, but rarely, if ever, on the losing side. It leans to the comfortable utilitarian view of things sufficiently to get the sweet voices of the "fragments" (see "Coriolanus"), but is vague enough in phrase to be able to impose upon that enormous majority who have a taste for palms but take good care to keep out of the way of the thorns. Now, this sort of thing wants no backers, and I never back it. If I think there is, on the whole, more good than harm in any particular instance of it, I just hold my tongue. But I cannot say warm words of any person or thing that I do not believe would be ready for a forlorn hope. As to the person (or thing) that is in my opinion so ready—my cue is sympathy, whether he be right or wrong in his aim; because moral courage is of all things the rarest, the most precious, the most needful in days when minorities are, on all hands, suffering from the power of majorities. Fortunately, there is always the alternative of silence in a doubtful case. And now for my proper work.

Mr. Trollope begins a new story in the *Cornhill*, and I couldn't help reading right through the opening. You, my good friend, will read it too; so much do we all sympathise with an unfortunate lover. But one wishes Mr. Trollope would make his moral purpose a little clearer, if the nature of his story is such as to raise moral questions. Was Julia Brabazon, or was she not, a very base, bad young woman, who was simply profane in saying "God bless you!" (p. 135) to the young man whom she rejected in a manner which, as she said, was "pardonable by all laws known in the world"? No doubt, in the course of the story Mr. Trollope will punish her for selling herself to the battered wretch whose nauseous carcass is so admirably depicted in the frontispiece. But in the mean time, Mr. Trollope, in the mean time? You have no scruple in speaking out about hunting. The Bishop advises Mr. Clavering not to hunt, and the clergyman desists. "For myself," says Mr. Trollope, "I think it as well that clergymen should not hunt; but had I been the parson Clavering, I should, under those circumstances, have hunted double." It would have been a comfort to some of us if Mr. Trollope had hinted at once—what is doubtless his opinion—that it was just as well worth while to defy the world in love-matters as to defy a bishop in hunting matters. But the most noticeable thing in the *Cornhill* is a rather capricious paper, by Mr. Matthew Arnold, entitled "My Countrymen." Towards the close of it he says, "I am no arguer, as is well known." Quite true; he is not an arguer; and there is something cold and alien about his manner—which is worse than his being "no arguer, as is well known." Mr. Arnold has half, and only half, of the philosophic intelligence. He can compare, but he cannot infer. He has what French feuilletonists call *logique*, but not what an Englishman means by the word logic. In other words, he has a mighty sense of the congruities of things, which finds a natural utterance in his perpetual complaints of our want of "sanity." There is a little confusion in the criticism (whether his own or other people's) that would confine him to "ideas," and keep him from whatever is "practical." The fact is, he has a keen eye for a practical difficulty, and a keen eye for the incongruities between facts and the ideals they may be supposed to aim at. For example, he sees clearly and presents with great power the difference there is between what he calls "the modern idea" of the greatest happiness of the greatest number and the facts of modern life. But when he proceeds to analyse, and attempts, however indirectly, to bridge over the interspace that separates the fact and what he calls the "idea," he plays into the hands of his opponents on every side.

What, then, is our duty to a distinguished man like Mr. Arnold? Surely, to take him for what he is, and give him our best attention. Let us cease to look for logical method in his writings, and endeavour as far as possible to see with his eyes. For evidently what he wants is to make us see something; it is vision that he finds us deficient in. We shall be better employed in discovering what that is than in criticising his dialect. People who feel sure of their principles, ought of all men to be the readiest to look round them when challenged about the way in which the principles are worked out. What Mr. Arnold means might, apparently, be thus stated:—1st, Your "modern idea" is the greatest happiness of the greatest number; 2nd, The class to which, being the most powerful just now, the working-out of this idea stands intrusted is your middle-class; 3rd, Your middle class, for want of a due sense of beauty, and due intelligence of the conditions under which this "idea" has to be pursued, is failing, and will probably continue to fail, in a degree out of all reasonable proportion to the pretensions advanced. Who shall say this message is not worthy of our most anxious attention? or that a mind of another mould could not cast it into commanding, logical form? Till we have satisfied ourselves that this last thing is impossible, we may justly say that Mr. Arnold is not logical, but not that there is no logic on his side. But I wish he were more of an Englishman, and more just about (for example) the Indian mutiny.

I have only left myself room to speak a brief word for *Macmillan*, whose turn will come another time; but I may just say that the article on Dr. Pusey's "Eirenicon" is excellently thought and excellently written; and that Mrs. Norton's story, "Old Sir Douglas," is carried on with very pleasant vivacity. "Craddock Nowell" contains some happy bits, e.g.:—"It is all very well, very easy, to talk about objectivity; but a really objective man the Creator has never shown us—save one; and even He rebuked the fig-tree to show sympathy with our impatience." By way of a curiosity, *Macmillan* gives us an article called "Bolsover Castle," by Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein. There now! Just think of a Prince taking his cheque, like any other contributor!

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Oxenford's dramatised version of "East Lynne," produced on Monday last at the new SURREY, is an unsatisfactory work. It has all the disagreeable surroundings of a sensation drama minus the "sensations," which is usually the apology for the introduction of a vast amount of irrelevant nonsense. I have not read Mrs. Wood's novel, so I am unable to say, from actual knowledge, how far her story has been preserved by Mr. Oxenford and in what respects it has been modified to adapt it to dramatic exigencies; but I understand that from the point at which the adapter has taken up the thread of the story he has followed it conscientiously. I do not propose to set forth the plot at length; but, for the benefit of those who, like me, have not read the novel and who, unlike me, have not seen the play, I may state that it turns on the devices employed by Captain Levison (Mr. Edgar) to induce Lady Isabel Carlyle (Miss Avonia Jones), the wife of Mr. Carlyle (Mr. Fernandez), to believe that her husband is false to her, in order that, from a motive of revenge, she may determine to elope with the unscrupulous Captain. His strategies are successful, and Lady Isabel consents to run away with him. After a lapse of some months, Mr. Carlyle obtains a divorce from his guilty wife, and, on hearing that she has been killed in a railway accident, he marries Barbara Hare, the young lady of whom Lady Isabel was so unreasonably jealous. But Lady Isabel is not killed, as Mr. Carlyle imagines: she is dreadfully wounded, but eventually recovers, and immediately on her recovery she is impelled by maternal

instinct to obtain access to her former husband's house, in the disguise of a governess, in order to be near her children, of whom she is passionately fond. The death of her little boy William, however, causes her to fall ill, and when in that condition her identity is discovered by Mr. Carlyle, who forgives her as she dies. As a literary work the piece is not remarkable, but as a means of allowing Miss Avonia Jones to be seen in two broadly-contrasted characters it answers its purpose. But if Miss Avonia Jones wishes to be heard as well as seen, she should raise her voice above the monotonous moan in which she delivered most of her speeches on Monday. In many instances the purport of her remarks was only to be gathered from Mr. Edgar's replies. Mr. Fernandez and Mr. Edgar played the parts of Mr. Carlyle and Captain Levison in a manner which appeared to satisfy the audience.

"The Fly and the Web," produced at the STRAND, is a "new and original" comedy, by Mr. Adolphus Troughton—and, at the same time, a clumsy adaptation of M. Scribe's "Le Gardien." Whether Mr. Troughton wishes one to believe that it is really his own unaided work, or whether he stated it to be so in the hurry of the moment, I don't know. It is a two-act piece: the first act a ponderous comedy, the second a broad farce. The whole piece turns upon Mr. Glitter's attempts to seduce Mrs. Belissa Traffick, the wife of a prosperous linendraper; and also Amorosa, her servant; and the frustration of his designs by Truman, Traffick's confidential clerk. Mr. Edward Price is unfortunate in his conception of Glitter; he lacks repose, and is far too conscious of his audience. Miss Ada Swanborough plays the weak but right-minded wife with taste and discretion. Miss Raynham surprised me agreeably in her performance of the imprudent Amorosa; it was quite a pleasant change to see this young lady in petticoats. I pitied poor Mr. Parselle, hampered as he is with the part of Truman. The piece was moderately successful.

Highbury Park is so completely beyond the range of one's ordinary lounging ground, that it is but seldom one has an opportunity of recording what is going on at the pretty little ALEXANDRIA THEATRE, which Mr. Giovannelli has constructed in the gardens of the old Highbury Barn Tavern. I did, however, wander so far to the north the other night, and was really very much pleased with the performance I witnessed. The piece on the stage was, of course, suited to Christmas-time—a pantomime, in fact, with the usual opening. The story treated is that of Blue Beard, upon which is grafted, under the title of Prince Magenta, I think, a sort of virtuous Don Giovanni, who accomplishes the deliverance of the unhappy victim of Blue Beard's cruelty and brings about the confusion of the latter. The piece has been got up under the superintendence of the proprietor, Mr. Giovannelli, who also plays the part of Blue Beard; and as regards scenery, dresses, &c., is really excellently mounted. Some of the scenes are very pretty, particularly the transformation one, upon which, of course, the greatest pains have been bestowed. I only noticed one thing to which I could take exception, and that was, that Blue Beard's beard appeared to be—by gaslight at least—not blue, but green.

I went a few evenings ago to hear, once again, Mr. Kennedy, the Scottish vocalist, who has been giving entertainments, after the manner of the late John Wilson, in Store-street, Bedford-square; and, while much pleased both with Mr. Kennedy's manner of introducing his songs and his style of singing them, I could not help feeling that there was a wide difference between the master and the pupil. Mr. Kennedy sings well and speaks well; but he seems to me to lack the sly, quaint, pawky humour which distinguished Wilson, as well as something of the softness and flexibility of voice which gave so touching a pathos to the latter's singing. Still Mr. Kennedy is, far and away, the best singer of the beautiful melodies of Scotland now alive; and a visit to Store-street on Monday evening next, when the last of the series of entertainments is to be given will amply repay all who have a taste for simple ballad music.

CAPTAIN COLES'S TRIPOD MASTS.—A model of this invention was exhibited at Lloyd's captains' room on Monday. It does away with shrouds and stays, as the mast is supported by two smaller ones. The advantages claimed are as follow:—Saving of wear and tear of ropes; improved ventilation of ship; increased speed; quicker voyages may be made in consequence of a vessel fitted with these masts being able to sail closer to the wind; and the masts may be as readily cut away as wooden masts.

THE MALT TAX.—There was a great anti-malt-tax meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday. Lord Bessborough presided, and a great number of members of Parliament were present. The resolutions, which were unanimously passed, condemned the malt tax as being injurious to agriculture, the cause of a great addition to the price of beer, and a breach of free-trade principles. It was resolved to use every Parliamentary means for getting rid of the tax, and with that object the support of the Central Anti-Malt-Tax Association was urged.—A numerous deputation from the Anti-Malt-Tax Association waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday. They assured the right hon. gentleman that if the tax were removed, the price of beer would be greatly reduced, and, in fact, they reproduced all the stock arguments. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told them that he was afraid there was no prospect of their getting what they wished at any very early date. The only chance for the abolition of the tax lay in the reduction of expenditure, and he urged them to assist in bringing this about. In answer to a question, the right hon. gentleman pointed out that there were great difficulties in the way of levying the duty on beer instead of on malt.

STREET TRAMWAYS.—An opportunity was afforded to the representatives of the press, a few days ago, of witnessing the model of an improved tramway, called by the promoters of the invention the "patent crescent" rail for street and road traffic. In contradistinction to the principle of the tramway introduced by Mr. G. F. Train some years ago, the advantages claimed for the present street rail are—that vehicles are not, as they were in the former case, obstructed in passing over it, whatever may be the angle at which they cross; and that the ordinary traffic running parallel with it is not interfered with. One great objection to the rail formerly used was that it projected above the surface of the roadway, thus destroying the gauge of the track and loosening the entire structure; whereas the new patent rail will be on a level with the surface of the ground, and has, moreover, the advantage that, the top being in the form of a crescent, the water will fall off, instead of penetrating to the wooden sleeper on which the iron rests, as in the original contrivance. The promoters of the new plan, which is brought forward by the Metropolitan Tramway Company, and which will be submitted to Parliament during the present Session, merely ask, in the first instance, for the privilege of laying down certain experimental tramways; and afterwards, in the event of these lines working satisfactorily, for additional powers to make arrangements with the proper local authorities for the extension of the system into other districts without further special application to Parliament. The routes indicated in the Parliamentary notice are from Finsbury-square to Upper Holloway, Tottenham-court-road to the Seven Sisters-road, Kingsland-green to Lower Edmonton, and Whitechapel to Stratford New Town. The object of the company being to demonstrate that it can afford facilities of street travel superior to and cheaper than any at present within its reach, it is only fair to state that the scheme is fully entitled to be placed in open competition with the existing system of omnibus traffic.

DEATH OF MR. W. F. WINDHAM.—Mr. W. F. Windham, as to whose sanity there was such a costly inquiry, before Master Warren, in December, 1861, has expired rather suddenly at the Norfolk Hotel, Norwich. He had given up the coach with which he had latterly occupied his time, but still passed his life in more or less dissipated company. On Thursday morning week he was taken with a most severe fit of sickness, and it is supposed that he ruptured some internal vessel. He was put to bed at the hotel where he resided, and a surgeon was sent for next morning. A change took place for the worse, and another surgeon was called in, while a telegram was forwarded to Lieutenant-General Windham, in London. The condition of the unhappy young man became rapidly worse, and, although a third medical gentleman was sent for and was soon in attendance, the case was beyond human aid, and death closed the scene in the evening. On Saturday last a post-mortem examination was made of the body. The result, however, did not reveal anything suspicious, and it was not considered necessary to hold an inquest. It is understood that death was attributable to congestion of the lungs and heart disease: the deceased's habits, it is also said, had been more intemperate of late. He had squandered away his first fortune, but arrangements had been made by Mr. Windham's uncle, Lieutenant-General Sir C. A. Windham, C.B., which was on the point of being executed when Mr. W. F. Windham died. By this arrangement Mrs. W. F. Windham was compelled to pay her husband an annuity of £500 until 1869, and to be increased to £1500 after that year. The execution of this arrangement had been delayed in consequence of Mr. Windham having changed his solicitor. The effect of Mr. Windham's death will be to deprive Mrs. Windham of the annuity granted on Mr. Windham's life, and also of any interest whatever in the Hanworth estate, the rents of which will accumulate until 1869, to enable certain charges to be cleared off. After 1869 the profits accruing from the estate will be applied as directed in the will of Mr. W. Howe Windham, father of Mr. W. F. Windham.

THE DUDLEY GALLERY.

This young exhibition keeps up to the promise of its first year. It appears to be fairly conducted, for no undue preference is given to the works of members of the committee as regards hanging. A very sensible arrangement, by which Friday was devoted to a press view, while Saturday was devoted to the private view, has resulted from the over-crowding which last year prevented the critics from forming a proper estimate of the exhibition. Last year one or two young artists, already well-known to the frequenters of the studios, made their first appearance before the public, and were warmly welcomed. This year, also, a few new names attract attention, and if only on this score the gallery deserves admiration, and, what is better, support.

There is only one objection that can be taken to the gallery, and that is to the number of pictures which it is attempted to hang. A line of pictures at the top and bottom might be dispensed with, and that with advantage to the general effect of the gallery. No one can see the high ones, unless it be Chang, who, as he is so close to the exhibition, will probably not go to see it; while, with regard to the groundlings, it is too much to expect of the most conscientious critic that he will grovel on the pit of his stomach on coconut matting.

The most striking picture—we will not say the best—in the gallery is "La Fontaine" (290), by Mr. Calderon. This remarkable work is painted on canvas, with a solidity and vigour which almost make one believe it is painted in oil. We do not know whether Mr. Calderon has before attempted water colours. If he have not, this is a curiously successful trial of a new medium. The black dress of the girl, it is true, lacks the lustrous intensity which is observable in his oils, and reminds us so much of Velasquez' colour; but there is a breadth and a grace about it that cannot but charm, and some exquisite little master-strokes in minor passages—for instance, the two little blue pools among the stones in the foreground.

Another important picture is Mr. Lamont's "Bored to Death" (192), in which a young girl (fortunately rescued from torture by Somnus) and a priest are having inflicted on them a long reading by a complacent gentleman who is not bored in the least! The faces in this picture are truly admirable, and though it wants a something to give it roundness and solidity, the work is a work of great merit. Mr. Lamont exhibits a smaller but equally clever painting, "Sunlight and Shade" (112). If he be wise he will stick to colour and abandon drawing on the wood, which has done anything but raise favourable expectations of his powers. Mr. George Thomas exhibits a rich bit of colour in his "Yeoman of the Guard" (377), with two charming children peeping at the grey-bearded veteran. "Alum Bay" (119) and "Sunday Morning, Coburg" (260), by the same artist, are also highly commendable. A clever picture is Mr. Hodgson's "Trout Stream near the Monastery" (361), wherein an old monk is accompanying a younger but no less enthusiastic fisherman along a trout stream. The eagerness of the old monk's face and the pride of the young one's, who has just caught his trout, are admirably given. A kindred subject, "Piscator" (326), by Mr. Russell, is, perhaps, not quite so good, but contains fine passages. Mr. Abbot Pasquier, whose effective chiaroscuro on the wood is a sufficient guarantee for his knowledge of colour, exhibits one or two fine pictures—none better, however, than "Waiting" (56), a group of men-at-arms collected in a room expecting an attack from without.

Miss Adelaide Claxton is represented by a picture which is as good as it is original. A young lady of the present day, just returned from a ball, has flung herself down, half way through her urrobing, in an arm-chair in the "Tapestry Chamber" (85), wherein the ghosts of one or two ancestors are hovering about her in mute wonder at the difference of fashion, from *chignon* to *bottines*, in modern times. There is good colouring in this, and the ghosts are admirably treated. Miss Florence Claxton must also have a passing word of praise for the quality of colour in her "Grey Twilight" (202). There is much to praise in her "Dante" (484), which, however, is too hard and sharp in the outlines.

"Now for the King!" (227) is a bright little group by Mr. Marsh; "Meditation" (262), by Mr. Linton, is a fine, lifelike head; and Mr. Tucker's "Prawn-catchers" (273) have much of the open-air, briny freshness of Hook about them. A portrait of "Miss Adelaide Frazer" (335) is a well-studied likeness, by Miss Frazer.

Mr. Poynter sends two small contributions, "A View near Pau" (638) and a "Study of a Head" (472), the latter a fine work, but a little defaced by an obvious tendency to the Dirty School. The Dirty School, of which Mr. Burne Jones is the founder, is getting too much in fashion with some of our young artists. Much of Mr. Simcon Solomon's really remarkable painting is injured by this folly, and the epidemic seems spreading. Mr. Scott's hideous "Proserpine" (110), Mr. De Morgan's "Visitation of St. Elizabeth" (311), and Mr. Donaldson's "Vision of Zechariah" (376), are all damaged by similar vagaries; and even Mr. Marks, in his "Orpheus" (525)—if he does not mean it for a squib on the new school, which we suspect he does—has been slightly infected. His other pictures, very different from his usual style, are well worthy of notice.

Mr. Pinwell sends three pictures, the largest not quite in a finished state, but all above the average of merit, "Old Wives" (578) being one of the best things we have seen for a long time, with much of the spirit of Walker in it.

Pictures by Messrs. Bouvier, Hablot Browne, Burr, Hayllar, and Rossiter are on the walls, and should not be overlooked. We may also draw attention to a lovely and imaginative picture by Mr. Fitzgerald, entitled "The Orphan" (532), in which the fairies are bringing food to a young thrush bereft of its parents by trap or gun. The exquisite fancy, the delightful richness of colouring, in this most charming picture, must be seen and cannot be described.

The principal still-life studies are by Miss Coleman, whose marvellous pictures of fruit and flowers have of late so deservedly attracted great attention, and by Messrs. E. and G. Dalziel. The merits of "Dead Birds" (128) and "Bachelor Comforts" (276), by the former, and of "In the Store-cupboard" (108), by the latter, are far above the average, and, indeed, exceptionally good if, as we understand, both the artists are very young.

Of the landscapes and of pictures grouping in that class, probably the most remarkable is Mr. Arthur Severn's "Sea at Land's End" (493), which, if not as telling as the similar subject which last year attracted so much attention, shows marks of the same power and perception. "Notre Dame" (86), by the same artist, is a noble subject broadly treated; but we are inclined to question whether the reddest sunset could invest with roseate hues so intense the grey towers of the old cathedral. Mr. Ditchfield and Mr. Albert Goodwin are two artists who have brought themselves prominently forward this year. Their contributions are all good, and bear evidence to a careful study of nature and a perfect mastery of the material, though in one or two instances the latter gentleman appears to neglect finish slightly. Mr. C. J. Lewis contributes some exquisite gems, notably No. 18; and Mr. Mawley sustains the reputation he achieved last year. Mr. J. C. Moore achieves a great triumph in his "Noble River" (121), as well as in "A Twilight Study" (259); but, indeed, all his works are worthy of praise. We may also mention with commendation Mr. Harp's "Glencoe" (3), Mr. Wolfe's "Cornish Bays and Headlands" (43), Mr. Johnson's "Greyfairs" (44), Mr. Bedford's "Cuckfield Park" (57) and "Hampstead Heath" (63), and Mr. Bradley's "Evening" (93). "A Cottage at Greta Bridge" (162), by Mr. C. Richardson; "Glossing" (168), by Mr. W. Paton; "Spring" (219), by Mr. Downard; "Chequered Shade" (355), by Mr. Perry; "Spring" (362), by Mr. Earle; and "The Dee-side" (432), by Mr. Oakes, must not be overlooked.

Miss Blunden exhibits a clever painting; Mr. Vicat Cole is represented by a splendid bit of nature, and Mr. Redgrave sends the best picture we have seen of his for many a long day. There is also an interesting frame of Mr. A. Hughes's designs for Moxon's illustrated edition of "Enoch Arden."

Our space will not allow us to do more than mention, as additional proof of the excellence of the Dudley Gallery, that it also contains works by Messrs. Beverley, Bottomley, T. Dalziel, T. Danby, F. Dillon, W. Field, Carl Haag, Keeley Haswell, E. Law, Macquoid, May, Melby, Mogford, Walton, Williamson, and Zwickler.

Literature.

Thoughts on the Future of the Human Race. By WILLIAM ELLIS. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

We have very great pleasure in introducing Mr. William Ellis to our readers (for we believe this to be the first book of his ever noticed in our columns) as a high-minded, generous writer; of solid acquirements, though he is by his own avowal, among the technically "unlearned;" of steady, enduring principles, and firm, affectionate trust in human nature. He is a genuine thinker, with as neat a way of cutting a fallacy clean through at a stroke as one need wish to have. Above all, we cannot help feeling, as we read, that he is an incorruptible man; that neither pains nor penalties, nor bribes nor beguilements, would make any difference in him. We cannot but fancy that his career may have been one of considerable difficulty, and yet there is not a cynical line in anything of his that we have ever seen. We regret to have to add that we have seen very little of his writing; but we are ready to bet a million to one that he never wrote a bitter sentence, or one that implied any distrust of his kind and its prospects. The present volume exhibits the grounds of his confidence very clearly thought out.

On the imaginative side, and, generally speaking, on the sympathetic side, Mr. Ellis is deficient; which we mention to prepare the reader for what is called a "dry" book. In facility and variety of illustration he does not even approach Samuel Bailey, of Sheffield—a man whom he much resembles in the habits of his mind, but who is himself a long way from being a good *illustrator* of ideas. There is no glow, no light, no colour in the writing of Mr. Ellis; and he entirely mistakes, as we think, the nature of religion. What is religious and what is moral must coincide, but they are not identical. It is important to notice this. We would rather go to Nifheim with Mr. Ellis than to Asgard with the writer of the article he quotes by way of appendix (his disgust with which we fully share); but we should find Nifheim a dull place if we were not sure of finding Balder, the white sun-god, there. It is a striking and most instructive and comforting fact, that a man who, like Mr. Ellis, hangs on apparently to so little of what is ordinarily essential to faith and trust, yet keeps his faith and trust, and works on as indefatigably as ever, and with as noble a hopefulness. We particularly call the attention of thoughtful readers to the rigid limitations of Mr. Ellis's field of thought in connection with the strength, the purity, and the boundlessness of his hope for his kind.

We are entirely at one with Mr. Ellis in his argument for progress, and warmly commend it to the attention of unbelievers and doubters. But he is, surely, a little sanguine here and there as to what has already taken place in the way of improvement. Unless our memory is at fault in taking one person for another, we have a juvenile recollection of him as being a schoolmaster, though we never saw him; and the training of the young is one of his strong topics—children and the duties of parents for ever turning up in his pages. On page 145 he says, "Canes, rods, and straps have disappeared from most schools. . . . A modern teacher feels that none but an ignorant brute would strike a child, and that threats and angry words are as unnecessary or as much opposed to effective teaching and training as the blows by which they may be followed." How many parents or teachers does Mr. Ellis think there are in all England who feel that "none but an ignorant brute would strike a child"? We happen to know that such parents do exist, but we only know one single specimen-pair. As for school-rooms, where is there one without a cane? And what does Mr. Ellis think of the flogging-block at large schools? Did he happen to read an article on Mr. Howard Staunton's book ("The Great Schools of England," or some such title) in the *Spectator*, about last August, in which the traditional brutality of these dens of corruption was defended? Let Mr. Ellis procure that number of our admirable contemporary, and take to heart, as we did, the lesson, bitter as it is to learn it. Not only "ignorant brutes," but men whom we cannot help loving and honouring—men whom we have to thank for much of what beautifies and strengthens our lives—defend what seems to Mr. Ellis (as it does to us) sickeningly hateful. Let Mr. Ellis attack the flogging-block, and we will write him up in every corner where we can wield a pen, and for every year of our lives, till we die. There's a bribe, Mr. Ellis! Meanwhile, we heartily commend the present volume to our readers, and wish them joy of their acquaintance with it.

Doctor Kemp: The Story of a Life with a Blemish. Two volumes. London: Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.

This is a weak example of a bad style of story-telling. It wishes to be thought so mysterious as to be altogether supernatural; and whilst, at the same time, the writer has the effrontery to insist that it is a narrative of facts, the real truth is that the story is little more than simply stupid. A "fact" novel is fifty times worse than an historical romance. In the romance case the reader of history may be supposed capable of taking care of himself; but when it comes to novel-writing, and whilst you are up to the eyes in fiction, are answered by a foot note that such and such a thing is a "fact," the "facts" will have a knack of looking remarkably "stubborn," but not in the way intended.

The alleged facts may be briefly dealt with; but it is better to begin by clearing off the story. The chief character, Thomas Kemp, is the son of a ship's captain. He is born at sea, and his mother dies; and when the ship reaches land the little infant is taken in charge by a kindly clergyman's family, and the unnatural father disappears once and for all. Little Thomas grows up into Dr. Kemp. The clergyman's family are very good people, but the clergyman dies, and some of them immediately become models of worldliness and vanity—and worse. There are about a dozen families altogether, and they seem to call at each other's houses, eat and drink, and change their clothes, &c.; but the reader is not asked to take such everyday matters as "facts." They are all the ripe imagination of the writer's brain; and when we consider the hundreds of pages of drivel—of talk and of description of what goes on diurnally under every one's nose, and which can be refreshing to no man, it is really a relief to turn to the original stupidities about duality, psychology, phenomena, and so forth, put before the reader as intellectual problems. We should fancy that this pretentious author, whose object is

To kill the girls, to fire the boys,

must be some very weak American; a very pale copy of Fay or Ferguson, and without a ha'porth of the amusing audacity of Barnum. If he has not got a woolly horse, at all events his brain may fairly lay claim to the adjective; and, if he has not got a Washington's nurse, he had better get some nurse, of no matter what kind, as soon as possible.

After a careful reading of "Doctor Kemp" we find the preface alone to be nearly sufficient for our purpose. The Doctor is born with a club-foot, and "the connection between mind and body is so interesting that no apology is needed for presenting to students of the subject an illustration of the mysteries its nature reveals." Without going into the difficulty of revealing a mystery, which means something unrevealed, it seems as if something were going to be explained by this passage. But, no. Turn the leaf. There is no explanation of the connection of mind and body; but there is this—"He (Kemp) was an extraordinary man; but it was quite unknown what the club-foot had to do with his singular frame of mind, and consequent irregular conduct. His oddity became vice, and his vice crime; but it is not assumed that he was without moral sense." Now, the reader of the book—if we do not warn him off—will see the nonsense of all this. Great things are to be shown, and nothing comes of it. As for the vice and crime there is simply nothing of the kind in the whole book, unless a young gentleman jilting a young lady (who marries somebody else quickly and sensibly enough) qualifies a human being for Newgate or Bedlam. The club-foot may have made Doctor Kemp morose and gloomy, and his strange abandonment at birth may have increased his disposition towards solitude and misanthropy, but that is all,

unless we add the "fact" that he does not believe in the creed. The author almost threatens to enlighten the world at some future period: "The relations between physics and psychology are as yet too obscure to permit an assertion to be hazarded with regard to," &c. In the mean time, however, all is delightfully vague. After hundreds of pages of dreariness concerning *receptivity*, and duality, and kindred nonsense, all we know about the hero is this—that when he meets certain people he seems to become fascinated. At a railway station he sees an old lady with a lot of boxes, and "something passed between them that indicated rapport." But what has that got to do with the club-foot? Then there is a vast amount of the most terrible rapport when Kemp attends a man who dies in a hospital; and next morning, in the deadhouse, the naked corpse gets up from the table and embraces the doctor, and they are found rolling on the stones together. This is clearly a serious book, intended to be repulsive—and so it is.

Franz Schubert. A Musical Biography. From the German of Dr. Heinrich Kreissle von Hellborn. By EDWARD WILBERFORCE, Author of "Social Life in Munich," &c. London: W. H. Allen and Co.

This is a volume which will prove interesting to musicians alone. During Schubert's short life of one-and-thirty years, twice only does he seem to have been out of Vienna, and then to meet with absolutely no change. And so he misses all that gaiety and variety which distinguishes Mozart amongst musicians, and almost all singers. Travel and foreign Courts are mixed up with them, and make their lives interesting, if not always cheerful. The story of Schubert is mournful. Born of the humblest parents, he is one of the greatest musical geniuses the world has ever seen, and dies at the age of thirty-one, leaving clothing and property valued at £6.

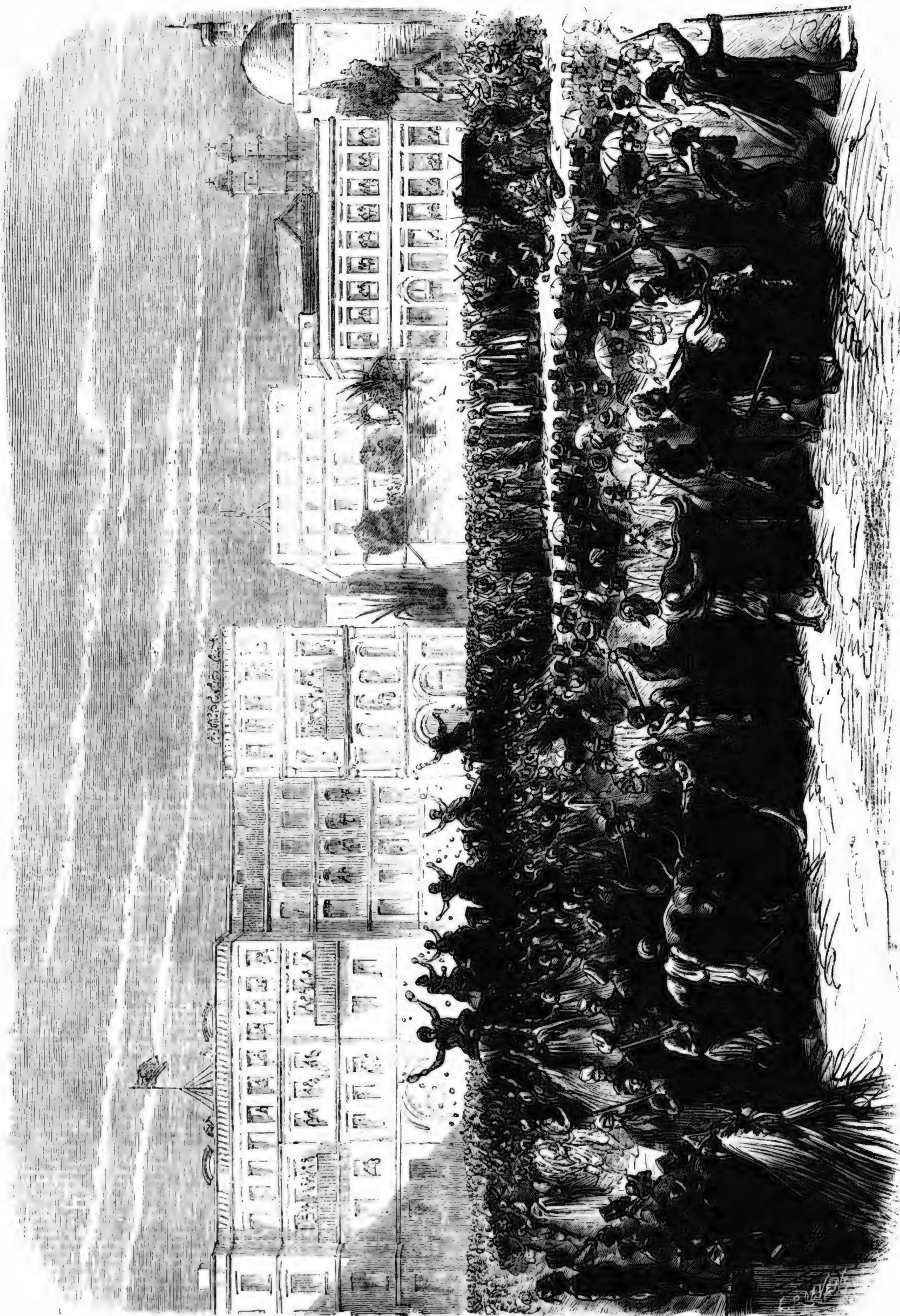
As a little child, he composed with wonderful vigour as well as skill. His masters had nothing to teach him. Everybody pronounced him a wonder! No publisher took him up. He taught A B C in his father's school, because, proud as Mozart and Beethoven, he would not stoop to teach music! Besides this, except long accounts of his works, we know nothing of him, save that all Vienna was running so madly after Rossini as to have no kind ear for poor Franz, and that, when he did fall in love, it was a hopeless passion for the little daughter of Count John Esterhazy. The meagre biography is not worth sifting in these lines.

Mr. Wilberforce's volume is dull enough for the general reader, and it is but an abridgement and alteration from the German doctor's big book. Mr. Wilberforce has cut away so much from the original, and has added opinions, and so forth, of his own, that it becomes difficult to know which is continental and which insular. This is a wretched system of bookmaking, and one which must lead to mistakes. At page 88 we read, "but he was never deserted by true friends, or *exploité* by false ones." (*True friends never do desert.*) And at page 95, "Schubert was evidently not a man to be neglected, but a very good man to be *exploité*." Mr. Wilberforce's essay on musical biography was quite unnecessary; or, at best, might have graced some better biographical specimen than this.

THE LOSS OF THE LONDON.

THE inquiry into the causes of the foundering of the steam-ship London has been continued from day to day. On Friday week Mr. Jones, the chief engineer, was called to give evidence of what occurred on board down to the loss of the vessel, and his evidence was full of interest, though, as might be expected, he could say little or nothing as to the navigation of the ship. On Saturday last two more of the survivors, William Hart (the carpenter's mate) and William Daniels (the quartermaster), were examined. One notable feature was the statement of the former, that, in his opinion, the sea alone would not have carried away the engine-room hatch-skylight had it not been in the first instance started by the flying jibboom. This spar was carried away on the Tuesday, and left hanging by the side of the ship until Wednesday, when it was taken on board (a previous attempt to secure it having failed) and lashed alongside the combings of the engine-room hatchway. The witness stated that he noticed after the skylight had been carried away that the jibboom was being washed about the deck. The memory of the quartermaster, Daniels, seemed completely at fault, and at one period of his examination he was inconsistent in his answers. Although at the wheel at the time, he was unable to fix the day on which directions were given for "wearing" the ship, and all he could say was that the vessel was put about previous to the engine-room hatchway being carried away, which was on the Wednesday night. This witness, however, gave positive testimony on the important point that, with the exception of the time occupied in "wearing" the ship, she was never before the wind from the moment she left Plymouth. On Monday three more of the survivors were examined—namely, Daniel Smith, boatswain's mate; Walter Edwards, midshipman; and John King, able seaman. There was some contradiction between the evidence of Smith and Edwards. Smith said that after the broken jibboom was got on board it was made fast, and he did not think it could have broken away the engine-room hatchway. Edwards said he saw the jibboom beating against the hatchway, and he added that after the hatch was washed off it was not broken. His description of the scenes on board was very touching. Captain Martin had evidently made up his mind to die, and dissuaded at least one lady—a Mrs. Owen—from going in the boat. On Tuesday, the first witness called, Richard Lewis, was not quite sober, and therefore his evidence was not taken. Benjamin Shells, another seaman, gave evidence which in no way altered the facts as they are known. He, however, distinctly swore that the engine-room hatchway was smashed after it was washed off. James Edward Wilson, a passenger, gave some important testimony. According to him, the water had been washing into the second cabin for some days before the engine hatchway was washed off, and, though canvas was nailed over the cabin-hatch, it did not prevent the water from getting in.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.—On Monday afternoon a meeting of the London guardians interested in the lodging of the industrious classes was held at the office of the Strand Union. Mr. Wilkinson, of the Strand guardians, occupied the chair, and Mr. J. S. Storr said it was generally felt that the existing house and lodging accommodation for the labouring and poorer classes was quite inadequate; that disease and immorality were thereby fostered; that rents were high, causing the people to overcrowd, and thus giving rise to those outbreaks of fever which constantly occurred. The evidence of a relieving officer of that district was that a large mass of families of artisans and others were crowded into rooms 10 ft. by 8 ft., and but 8 ft. high; that whole houses, courts, and alleys were filled with this class of tenants, and that the "property" was in the hands of middle men, who seldom allowed the rent to run a second week, and never did any repairs or effected necessary sanitary arrangements unless compelled by the authorities. He warned the guardians that, unless they took the initiative in pressing for legislative interference in such matters, so that where a railway was to be formed, or an improvement was to be effected, the companies should be compelled to erect dwellings in lieu of those they destroyed, fever would be still further engendered, and some of the guardians might look to have their term of office cut untimely short in a manner they little thought of. Mr. Hopwood proposed that a memorial, prepared by the gentlemen of the Strand Union, should be adopted and presented to the President of the Poor-Law Board. Mr. Hanson (of the Holborn Union) opposed the presentation to the Poor-Law Board, as he looked upon that as a most mischievous body, and one in which he expressed himself as having no confidence. Mr. Marshall (of St. Martin's) pointed out that the ill-lodgment of the industrious classes caused them to be but one remove from paupers, as their health was weakened by the bad places in which they dwelt, and they easily fell victims to sickness, in which case they and their families became chargeable to the rates. One of the guardians gave an account of the deplorable manner in which the poor were lodged in St. James's as witnessed by him when distributing relief; he described one recipient of outdoor relief as living in a cellar called a kitchen, the widow of which she could not open because of the fearful stench from the privy and dustbin. After some conversation, it was resolved that the memorial should be sent to the President of the Poor-Law Board immediately—a resolution which was only arrived at after a long debate, some of the guardians present being desirous of each "board" having an opportunity of considering the subject—a proposal which drew from one energetic guardian a declaration that he was tired out with the delays and slowness of the various unions. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.



FUNERAL PROCESSION OF THE IMAM OF THE MOSQUE OF IBRAHIM-BACHIR, AT ALEXANDRIA.



THE CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF TOLEDO CONVEYING THE IMAGE OF THE VIRGIN OF OLVIDO TO THE ROYAL PALACE, MADRID.

FUNERAL OF THE IMAN OF THE MOSQUE OF IBRAHIM-BACHIR, AT ALEXANDRIA.

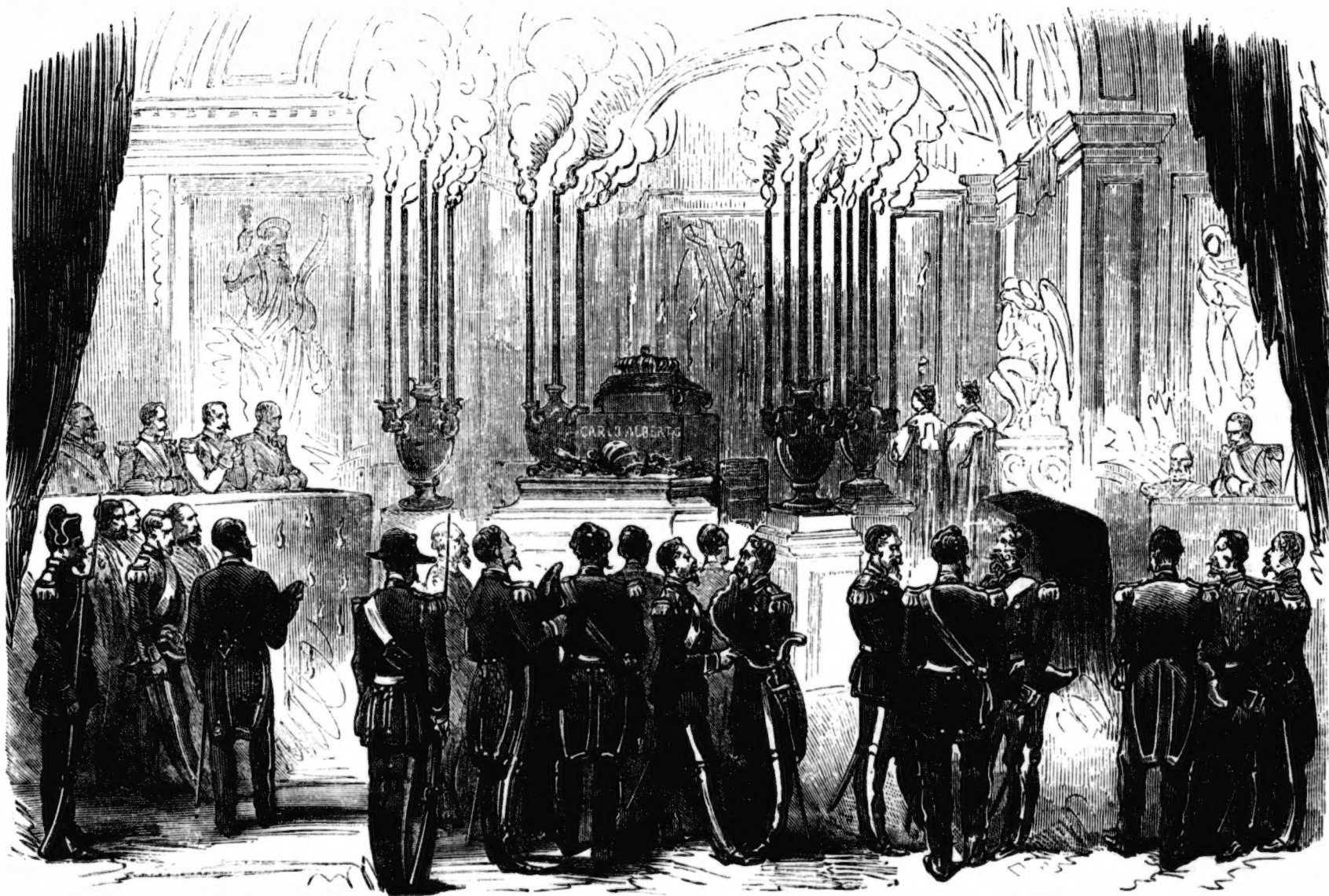
MR. LANE in his book on the modern Egyptians describes some of the particulars of those wonderful processions which attend the funerals of distinguished people in that country, and many of us have wondered at the strange and picturesque customs which have so long survived many changes in the nations where the modern peaceful inroads of the Franks have done more to destroy the

obstinate conservatism of the people than years of war and violence could have effected. The inhabitants of Alexandria, however, have lately had an opportunity of witnessing a spectacle which must have revived much of the spirit of their ancient ceremonies, for the occasion was too extraordinary to be passed by with no more than the usual demonstrations of solemnity.

The Sheikh Soliman-Bachir, Iman of the Mosque of Ibrahim-Bachir, Alexandria, has lately died, at more than a hundred years

of age, and at a time when his great revenues were only equalled by his almost prodigal generosity. According to the Egyptian custom, the venerable priest had scarcely breathed his last when the mourners and the weeping women invaded the house, and passed the night in the accustomed ceremonies.

The *wilwal*, as those piercing shrieks and wails are called, begin to sound as soon as the dying man has ceased to breathe, and the body is then attired in fresh garments and placed on a mattress.



DEPOSITING THE REMAINS OF PRINCE OTHO OF ITALY IN THE TOMB OF KING CHARLES ALBERT.

For an hour the wailing continues, stimulated by the professional mourning chant of the neddabehs or hired women, and the dull thuds of the tambourines with which they accompany their lamentations. Then, while the body is purified, perfumed, and dressed in the grave-clothes, the Koran is chanted by the appointed *fickies*; the soorat el-an'am (or sixth chapter) being generally chosen, and varied by a recitation of part of the "Boordeh," a celebrated poem in praise of the Prophet. In the more common funeral processions it is customary for the cortege to begin with about six poor men, mostly blind, walking two and two, and chanting the profession of faith in a low, melancholy tone. These are followed by some of the male relations and friends of the deceased, and some dervishes bearing the flags of their order. Then come three or four schoolboys, one of whom carries a copy of the Koran on a kind of desk covered with an embroidered handkerchief. These boys also chant, and are followed by the bier, on which the body is carried, head foremost, and which is borne by relatives or friends of the deceased. Behind the bier walk the female relations, who, with the hired mourners, weep and wail, their hair often hanging down dishevelled beneath their head-dresses and veils. Singularly enough, this wailing of women at funerals, as well as any celebration of the virtues of the deceased, was forbidden by Mohammed; but his precepts in this, as in other things, are often disregarded in favour of the more ancient customs of Egypt. The bier, being brought into the mosque, is laid upon the floor in the usual place of prayer, with the right side towards the kiblah, or the direction of Mecca. The Imaum of the mosque stands before the left side of the bier facing Mecca, and a servant of the mosque at the feet repeats the words of the Imaum as the attendants at the funeral range themselves round to join in the responses of the burial service, which is most impressive. The bier is next placed before the monument of the saint of the mosque, wheresome part of the Koran is recited; and it is afterwards conveyed to the tomb, which is an oblong vault with an arched roof, generally constructed of brick and plastered, and so shaped as to enable the persons buried in it to sit up when they are examined by the two angels *Moorikir* and *Mekeer*, of whose visitation a *mooluckekin*, or instructor of the dead, informs the corpse after it is inclosed in the tomb—sitting outside, and mentioning the replies which it is desirable to give to the inquiries that will be made. If the funeral be that of a person of rank or great wealth, two or three skins of water and as many camel-loads of bread are distributed to the poor in the burial-ground; and a buffalo is sometimes slaughtered, that its flesh may also be given away. This custom is supposed to expiate some of the minor sins of the deceased.

These customs were observed on a great scale at the funeral of the late Imaum. He died at night, and on the following afternoon the cortege set out, headed by a number of oxen destined for the sacrifice already mentioned. These were followed by camels which moved slowly in the midst of an indigent crowd, to whom the sacred bread was distributed. Behind these came all the blind people of the city chanting, bareheaded, and then came a great assembly of the boys, sheiks, Imaums, and officers of justice.

The Imaum having died in the odour of sanctity, the honour of carrying the bier was eagerly sought, while efforts were made to touch the drapery which covered it—a pious anxiety which led to several accidents, though none of them were very serious.

At the cemetery the body was placed in the tomb, where an ancient priest pronounced a discourse, and the crowd retired. On the following evening the mosque of Ibrahim Bachir was illuminated in honour of the saint who had just joined the fathers of the faithful.

THE VIRGIN OF OLVIDO.

JUST before the late important event which gave another possible heir to the Spanish throne, a Royal carriage, richly appointed, and attended by priests, soldiers, and outriders, was seen passing through the street of Atocha. Within this carriage rode an official whose duties are so remarkable that plain English people are excusable for shaking their heads in doubt, and with a suspicion that there must be some mistake, when they read a simple statement of her functions—no less a personage, in fact, than the mistress of the robes to the Virgin of Aranjuez. To this image of the Virgin the Queen applies on every succeeding occasion like that which has just taken place; and for some months previous to the interesting event the highest of the Court milliners and dressmakers are consulted as to the fashion and richness of the votive offering which shall be presented to the holy effigy. It was to the conveyance of this magnificent robe, all bejewelled and belaced, that the Royal carriage and its cortege was devoted; and it was believed that the object of the Queen's veneration would, when opportunity served, be efficacious in securing for her Majesty that safety and comfort which in her situation were so desirable.

Our Engraving represents the solemn ceremony which took place just before the accouchement, when the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo accompanied the image into the presence of Royalty, and the Virgin of Olvido was transported for a month's visit to the palace at Madrid in all the splendour of the robes and jewels with which it had been decorated.

Some days before the time announced for the reception of the little Royal stranger, the Archbishop of Toledo, Cardinal Father Tirilo, set out by special train to fetch the Virgin from the convent of San Pascual, at Aranjuez, and was accompanied by a priest, whose sacred duty it was to carry the image, as though he were bearing a doll. Our Illustration is taken from a sketch representing the entrance of the Archbishop to the railway station, where, as usual, a number of the faithful had assembled to witness the deportation of the image whose presence in Madrid was expected to be so serviceable to the Queen in her hour of trouble.

THE FUNERAL OF PRINCE OTHO OF ITALY.

THE death of Prince Otho, Duke of Montferrat, the youngest son of the King of Italy, which took place at Genes, on the night of Jan. 21, has cast a cloud upon the spirits of his countrymen. Prince Otho, whose health was always weak and his frame feeble, had remained quite secluded from public life; but in his country retreat he had devoted himself to many of those pursuits which are intended to ameliorate the condition of the poorer classes. It was felt that he would die young, for his constitution was hopelessly weak; but his gentleness of soul and true kindness of character had endeared him to the people no less than that cultivated intellect which is so often the gift of those who never live to develop their great qualifications in active leadership. His attainments in art and science, however, were so considerable, and his companionship so delightful, that his absence is severely felt in the inner life of the Royal family, and the occasion of his funeral was one of bitter sorrow to his father and brothers. It is the custom in the Royal family of Savoy that the body of a deceased Prince shall remain in a provisional tomb until a successor takes his place; and, in accordance with this ceremony, the remains of Prince Otho have been laid in the tomb of the late King Charles Albert, in the basilique at Superga. This church is situated in the mountains, about three leagues from Turin, and was founded after the battle of Turin, gained by the famous Prince Eugene, on the spot where the then reigning Duke Victor Amédée stood to reconnoitre the French camp and concert with that celebrated General the definitive plan of the battle. The funeral mass was performed in the subterranean chapel which serves as a provisional tomb, after which the high dignitaries of the Court approached the bier for the purpose of identifying the body; and the coffin which contained the mortal remains of the Prince was closed.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE AT CRONSTADT.—A few days back fifty-four lives were lost at Cronstadt in a very sad manner. At half-past two in the morning a wooden building, constructed on Battery No. 10, serving as a habitation for 250 workmen, took fire and was in a few moments enveloped in flames. There were three doors to the building, but only one was unlocked, and this opened inwards. The unfortunate men, pressing forward in crowds, kept it closed, and it had at length to be broken down, but fifty-four men had already perished. The rest were rescued with great difficulty.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

It appears that we are to have no less than four operas—some say five—this coming season: two Italian operas, as usual; one English opera at Drury Lane, under the direction of the Opera Company; another English opera at the Lyceum, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Harrison; and a third at Astley's, under the direction of Mr. E. T. Smith.

The first performance of Mr. Henry Leslie's choir for the present season was attended with remarkable success. Ten years have now passed since this choir was formed, during which period we learn from Mr. Leslie's programme that sixty-four concerts have been given, at which the choristers have performed "671 native and 311 foreign compositions." We are told, however, immediately afterwards, that "many of these performances were repetitions," which diminishes considerably the value of the first statement. Nevertheless, above a hundred works have been presented to the public for the first time, and what is still more remarkable, many of the pieces produced, including several by Mr. Leslie himself, have been of high merit. The concert commenced with a performance of "God Save the Queen," arranged by Mr. Leslie for the choir. The first of the new part-songs, "When twilight dews are falling soft," by Mr. Barnby, possesses a certain sort of prettiness. The second, by Mr. Henry Leslie, is called "Up, up, ye dames, ye lasses gay;" the verses by Coleridge which thus commence are well adapted for music, and Mr. Leslie has caught their spirit admirably. The third novelty for the choir was also by Mr. Leslie. It is based upon Shakespeare's well-known lines, "How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank." The second of Mr. Leslie's new part-songs contrasts well with the first, and of the two the second is the best. It was excellently sung, and the audience insisted on hearing it a second time. Mr. Silas's "Christmas Carol" (words by Longfellow) is a composition of some pretensions and of considerable merit. In the second part of the concert Mr. Charles Salomon's choral arrangement of the 29th Psalm—already performed, we believe, at several churches and cathedrals in the country—was heard for the first time in London. It is simple and impressive, and does not contain one passage too difficult for an ordinary choir. The last of the new pieces was Mr. Henry Smart's part-song, entitled "Crocuses and Snowdrops," to words by W. S. Passmore. It is a most charming composition, like everything of the kind that Mr. Smart has written. Among the part-songs already familiar to Mr. Leslie's audience were Mr. G. A. Macfarren's "Maidens never go a wooing" (words by Desmond Ryan), which is certainly one of the best of our modern madrigals, probably because it so much resembles our ancient ones; and the charmingly-melodious "Wreath" (or, "Sweet, lovely, chaste, yellicies, haste"), by Benedict. The solo performances at Mr. Leslie's concerts are comparatively unimportant. It had been expected that Mr. Sims Reeves would sing; but Mr. Reeves was too ill to appear. He was replaced, however, by Mr. Wilby Cooper, who, having to attend another concert, was replaced in his turn by Mr. Leigh Wilson, who, by a fortunate accident, happened to be in the room when the announcement of Mr. Sims Reeves's indisposition was made. Mr. Wilby Cooper sang the tenor air, "Through the forest," from "Der Freischütz." Mr. Leigh Wilson gave, first, "The Message," by Blumenthal; and secondly, "Come if you dare," from Purcell's "King Arthur." Mr. Wilson was immensely applauded in both pieces. Miss Ada Jackson, a young singer of great promise, was heard to advantage in "My mother bids me bind my hair" and "Where the bee sucks." Miss Austin, a pupil of Mr. Lindsay Sloper, made her first appearance in public as a pianist, and played Sterndale Bennett's "The Lake, the Mill-stream, and the Fountain;" and afterwards a fantasia by Liszt on airs from Gounod's "Faust."

The musical performances at the Crystal Palace are especially remarkable for the number of new instrumental works they are made to include. But for Mr. Manns and his admirably-disciplined band, the general public would have known nothing of the symphonies of Schubert and Schumann; and it is only at the Crystal Palace that the frequenters of those comparatively exclusive concerts, at which specimens of these masters' works are from time to time brought forward, have had opportunities of studying them thoroughly. When Mr. Manns introduced Schumann's symphony in C major for the first time to the Crystal Palace audience, in December last, he pointed out (as he reminds us in a note appended to Saturday's programme) that the prejudice with which this composer's works are too often viewed is chiefly caused by what, in fact, constitutes one of their greatest merits—namely, their originality. In support of this view he shows that Beethoven's originality was an obstacle to his success, and that all composers whose music is strikingly new are sure to find opponents in the partisans of what is familiar and old. We are more inclined to admit the force of Mr. Manns' arguments when he tells us that Schumann's symphony in B flat (which was given at the Crystal Palace on Saturday) has been performed more frequently than any other work of Schumann's, and that the enthusiastic applause with which it is always received proves that the audience thoroughly enjoy "the dashing animation of its opening movement, the sweet content of a happy soul pictured in its larghetto, the romance and originality of the scherzo and two trios, and, above all, the enchanting joyousness of its brilliant finale."

On Tuesday next, as we mentioned last week, a grand performance of M. Gounod's "Tobias" will take place, for the first time in any country, at St. James's Hall, under the direction of Mr. Benedict, and for the benefit of University College Hospital.

A WILD-BEAST FIGHT.—In two compartments, one above the other, of a caravan at Manders's menagerie, now exhibiting in Liverpool, a leopard and a hyena were recently confined—the former in the lower and the latter in the upper compartment. During the night of Thursday week the hyena tore up the floor of its cage so as to be able to get its head through. It would then appear that the leopard beneath seized it by the throat, and a terrific struggle ensued. The noise alarmed the watchman, and Mr. Manders and others came to the spot. It was then found that the leopard had pulled the hyena through the floor, and so tenacious was its hold that, although Mr. Manders freely used a heavily-loaded riding-whip on its head and shoulders, the hyena was quite dead when the leopard was beaten off.

THE HOUSELESS POOR ACT.—On Saturday afternoon last a meeting of London guardians was held at the house of Dr. Brewer, one of the guardians of St. George's, Hanover-square, to confer together with regard to the Houseless Poor Act. Dr. Brewer was called to the chair, and he complained that the London guardians were subjected to more than ignominious treatment and misrepresentation, and that they were called upon to carry out a law in which the framers themselves appeared to have little confidence. He said the Act was at variance with the principle held by the Poor-Law Board as laid down in a minute issued in the cholera year (1848) that "a sound and vigilant discrimination in respect of the objects of relief, and the steady refusal of aid to all who are not ascertained to be in a state of destitution, are obviously the most effectual remedies against the continued increase of vagrancy and mendicancy. It is equally the duty of those officers to relieve the destitute and to repel the impostor." He pointed out that when lodgings were obtained in lodging-houses for those whom the wards would not hold no labour-test could be exacted; and he maintained that exacting a labour-test in the morning instead of the evening led to vagrancy, as the day was too far advanced when the work was done for the tramps to seek for labour, so they were compelled to seek the relief of the workhouse again. He also stated that the tickets for lodgings given in those parishes which do not provide sufficient wards are sold by the recipients, who go from workhouse to workhouse where they know this mode of relief is adopted. The representatives of the several parishes then addressed the meeting, and it is remarkable that the guardians of those parishes where the Act has not been carried out spoke against it. Several spoke against the inspection by the police, and they were opposed to this inspection on "constitutional grounds." The Poor-Law Board were blamed for not carrying on the inspection by one of their own officers. The appointment of the police as assistant relieving officers (a matter permissive in the hands of the guardians) was condemned by the guardians of those parishes where it has not been carried out, and declared to be an advantage by one of the guardians of Poplar. Mr. Hickson, one of these guardians, urged the meeting not to charge all the difficulties which had arisen to the Act, which, he said, was merciful, while the old law was vicious. He pointed out that in a vast population like that of London it was no strange thing that there should be vagrancy; and though he did not altogether like other bodies, as the police and metropolitan board, having anything to do with the relief of the poor, he thought the repressive powers of the police were of service in classifying applicants. After some remarks by other gentlemen, it was resolved that a general meeting of London guardians should be called before the parish elections, which, it was thought, in those parishes where the guardians are not elected for life or by the vestries, might make some changes.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT

WASHINGTON.

A NEW British Parliament having just assembled, and its mode of doing business attracting considerable attention, it may be interesting to compare the style of proceeding in the Parliament of the United States, as sketched by the pen of the *Times* correspondent. He says:—

"The discussion in the House of Representatives with reference to the admission of the Southern members has had fresh life infused into it by the introduction of another proposed amendment to the Constitution. It had been growing tedious even to the most ardent of budding politicians, who deemed it a duty to listen to it day after day. Nothing, indeed, can be less favourable to the progress of an important debate than the mode of conducting business in the house—the latitude allowed to members, the little restraint exercised by the Speaker, and the numerous interruptions which the House not only sanctions, but encourages, are all opposed to orderly and intelligible discussion. The desk which is placed before each member is fatal to good debating, unless in a time of extraordinary excitement, for few men could speak with spirit to an audience which is busily engaged in writing letters and reading newspapers, and lounging and chatting. Members of Congress, as a rule, make the House of Representatives their office, and conduct the whole of their business and correspondence there. Anyone who has suffered from the unspeakable wiliness and discomfort of the Washington hotels, and who knows how inadequate is the accommodation they can afford, will understand at once why it is that congress men who have no permanent residences in the city should be glad to sit in a large and clean hall, before a comfortable desk, instead of being stuffed into a dirty bed-room and obliged to write on a washstand or a trunk. There are other inducements for turning the house into an office. The member has only to clap his hands, and half a dozen messenger-boys race towards him, ready to do anything he commands. They bring him his letters by post and send away his answers. This constant clapping of hands sounds like applause to the inexperienced ear, and one would suppose that it must seriously distract the attention of a speaker from an intricate argument which happened to be backed up by numerous statistics. But such a speaker has a multitude of other difficulties to contend with. The messengers run past him and round him, and perhaps a dozen members get up to badger him with questions in the midst of his remarks. It is optional with him whether he will hear them, but he is interrupted just the same, whether he accedes or refuses, for the Speaker is obliged to appeal to him to decide whether he will 'yield the floor or not.' 'Mr. Speaker!' cries a dozen voices at once; and, singling one member out of the throng, the Speaker asks the unfortunate representative who is already in possession of the house, 'Does the member for Ohio yield to the gentleman from Maine?' In nine cases out of ten he does, from a strained sense of politeness; and, of course, he loses the thread of his argument, and goes off in a discursive ramble in quest of it, until the hammer falls and announces that his hour is up. Some members can submit themselves to these interruptions without suffering the continuity of their remarks to be broken; but those who cannot, and who really have something rational to say, are wise enough to refuse to hear the questions interposed, and in that case the Speaker will always protect them. In general, however, the ablest speaker is interrupted the most, and the established 'bores' are permitted to prose through their hour unmolested.

"There are still greater liberties allowed to the representatives of the people. They often bring their children with them into the house, and, as there is no equally spacious playground open to the juveniles in Washington, they improve the opportunity with all the quickness of the youthful mind. While some member is labouring painfully through his ill-written essay on reconstruction, the younger generation is skylarking between his legs, or keeping up an animated game of hide-and-seek among the desks, which form an unrivalled hunting-ground. There are some days which seem to be almost given up to the children, like morning performances of pantomimes. Then there are always restless gentlemen, wandering up and down with their hands in their pockets, immediately in front of the Speaker—for there is no restriction upon them in this respect—or they stroll to each other's chairs, plant their feet on the desks (these are generally western members) and make free use of the spittoon which is placed by the side of every seat. The galleries meanwhile are crowded with strangers, who do not fear to applaud when anything is said which 'takes their fancy.' It is true that the Speaker instantly calls 'order' and drops his hammer, but the applause is renewed whenever another hit is made. For instance, when Mr. Rogers, one of the New Jersey members, was making a somewhat noisy and excited speech, when he happened to allude to Mexico, and called upon the South as well as the North to 'drive the Imperial despot out of Montezuma's halls,' the people in the galleries at once clapped their hands as if they had been in a theatre. The result of this license is that more than one member habitually speaks to the galleries rather than to the House. Of late two-thirds of the strangers present have been negroes or discharged soldiers, now without occupation in Washington, and therefore able to indulge in legislative studies. The general aspect of the House is always one of disorder. When the Speaker has left the chair it bears some resemblance to a large bar-room, minus the 'drinks.' Members light cigars and seat themselves at their desks for a comfortable talk. They have 'got through' with their speeches, and now prepare for a 'splendid time.' Such is their way of describing this happy period of the day. Perhaps in the evening the hall is occupied by a teetotal meeting or an assembly of Primitive Methodists, who make the galleries reverberate with their thunders against the desperate wickedness of the human race, especially on your side the Atlantic."

A SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a man who has been in the force twenty years, and has hitherto borne a good character, is charged with a serious robbery. Precisely three years ago a man, whilst in a state of drunkenness, was robbed of bank-notes to the amount of £250, and the proceeds, it appears, have been traced to the sub-inspector, who has been apprehended.

THE SUICIDE OF ADMIRAL PAREJA.—A letter received in this country contains a translation of a letter written by the late Admiral Pareja, just before his suicide, to a friend in Europe. The Admiral's letter, which is dated on board the Villa de Madrid, at Valparaiso, November, 1865, is as follows:—"This letter will convey to you the news of my death. The errors of judgment, and not of will, with which I have unfortunately misguiding the Government of my Queen cannot have any other expiation. I have been prejudiced and unjust towards Tavora. Request him to pardon me. He did know this Republic better than anybody else, and his advice and proceedings were safe and sound. It is the interest of our country to embrace the first moment to make peace with Chili." A translation of the preceding letter, we are informed, was communicated by an intimate friend of the late Admiral. The original must have been already exhibited to the Queen of Spain or some member of her Cabinet. The letter fully confirms the opinion which the statesmen and the press of all nations have pronounced upon the unjustifiable provocation of Spain to the Republic of Chili. Admiral Pareja, in a moment of jealousy or ambition, had inflicted the calamity of war upon two friendly nations. He did not know how to remedy the evil or to extricate himself from that grave responsibility which he had incurred, and, overwhelmed by repentance and grief, or thinking himself in the way to the restoration of peace, he took the rash determination to put an end to his life.

THE NEW COURTS OF JUSTICE.—A new court will be opened in a few days, to be called "The Courts of Justice Compensation Court," of which the first case will be heard under the Acts authorising the erection of "The Palaces of Justice." The old Insolvent Debtors' Court, where strange and marvellous occurrences took place, has been improved, and in the place where the late Mr. Commissioner Phillips presided will the new court be held. The old court of the establishment has been fitted up for the meetings of the commissioners, and the Lord Chancellor, with the other Judges in law and equity, have deliberated. The site to be taken has been agreed upon, and from the west side of Bell-yard to Clement's Inn all will be swept away, and some hundreds of poor and working people will be compelled to vacate their places of residence. Parliament has already voted some money, and the works will be commenced. A sum of £1,000,000 is to be advanced out of the Surplus Interest Fee Fund of the Court of Chancery, and contributions are to be made by suitors towards the erection of the new palace. The first compensation case has reference to a house in the Strand, and a jury will be summoned to assess the sum to be given by the commissioners of the new law courts.

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